



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

19 December 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: The Near East & South Asia book has instituted Front Page, a digest of significant items published each day. Comments may be directed to FBIS Liaison and Requirements Branch, (703) 733-5840.

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FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Delegation Head on Outcome of Talks [Damascus Radio]	3
On Israeli 'Intransigence' [Damascus Radio]	3
Rejects 'Allegations' on Golan [Damascus Radio]	4
Lebanon's Shammās on Date, Venue of Next Talks [VOL]	4
Progress Linked to Syrian-Israeli Talks [VOL]	4
Additional Comment by Delegation Heads [Amman TV]	4
Jordanians, Palestinians on 'Deadlock' [Amman TV]	5
Jordanian, Palestinian Chief Delegates Comment [Amman TV]	5
Jordanian Spokesman on Washington Talks [Amman Radio]	6
'Ashrawi Briefs Media on Washington Talks [PETRA]	6
On Attacks Against Palestinian Status [PETRA]	7
Israeli Media Report Developments in Talks	7
Jordanian-Palestinian Friction Seen [Jerusalem TV]	7
Talks With Palestinians, Syrians [Jerusalem Radio]	8
Reports on Developments in Reconvening of Talks [Jerusalem Radio]	8
Talks To Resume 7 Jan, Venue Undecided [Jerusalem Radio]	8
Levi Sees 'No Crisis' [Jerusalem Radio]	9
Spokesman Netanyahu Interviewed on Talks [Tel Aviv Radio]	9
Israeli Media Interview Heads of Arab Delegations	10
Palestinian Chief Negotiator [Jerusalem TV]	10
Jordan's al-Majali [DAVAR 19 Dec]	11

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Should 'Pressure' Israel on 'Stubborn Stands' [Algiers VOP]	11
Editorial Says Israel 'Gaining Time' in Talks [AL-FAJR 9 Dec]	12

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Boudjedid Warns of Upcoming New World Order [Algiers TV]	13
FTS Supporters Among Guemars Attackers [Algiers Radio]	13
Political Parties Present Platforms [APS]	13

Egypt

Serbian Foreign Minister Arrives, To Meet Ghali [Belgrade TANJUG]	14
U.S., Israeli Moves on Peace Talks Assessed [MENA]	14

Iran

Iran Reportedly Provides Arms, Ammunition [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Dec]	15
---	----

State Aiding Algerian, Tunisian Fundamentalists	[AL-WAFD 15 Dec]	15
Rebel SPLA Official Comments on Bor Killings	[London International]	16
Former Official Ahmad al-Mirghani To Return	[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Dec]	16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Chief Discusses Regional Security Issues	[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 17 Dec]	17
--	--	----

Kuwait

Defense Ministry Says Iraq Returns Two Aircraft	[AFP]	17
Further on Visit of Syrian Prime Minister		17
Holds Talks With Prime Minister	[Damascus Radio]	17
Economic Agreement, Protocol Signed	[Damascus Radio]	18
Joint Communique Issued	[Damascus Radio]	18
Al-Zu'bi Departs 18 Dec	[Kuwait Radio]	20
Paper Questions U.S. Neutrality in Peace Talks	[KUNA]	20

IRAQ

Son Denies Report of Shitte Cleric Kho'i's Death	[IRNA]	21
Opposition Says 12 Ba'thist Officials Killed	[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]	21
Opposition Reports Government Attacks Repelled	[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]	21
Opposition Notes 'Increasing Tension' in Baghdad	[Voice of the Iraqi People]	21
Interior Minister on Need for Security, Stability	[Baghdad Radio]	22
Class of Reserve Officers Demobilized	[INA]	22
Report Details War Damage to Baghdad Water System	[INA]	22
Paper Criticizes Iranian Reaction to UN Report	[INA]	24

ISRAEL

Sharon Announces Candidacy for Prime Minister	[Jerusalem TV]	25
Jerusalem Pleased U.S. 'Stayed Out' of Talks	[Tel Aviv Radio]	25
'Failure' of Talks Blamed on Palestinian Math	[Jerusalem Radio]	25
Price Said To Be Paid for UN Resolution Repeal	[HA'ARETZ 18 Dec]	25
Levi Demands UN Act on Release of MIA's	[Tel Aviv Radio]	26
Moscow Embassy 'Pursues Normal Activities'	[Tel Aviv Radio]	26
Army Said 'Not Seeing to' Residents' Security	[Jerusalem Radio]	26
IDF Plans To Take 'Firm Action'	[Jerusalem Radio]	27
Riots in Gaza Town After Shooting	[Jerusalem Radio]	27
New Pilgrimage Date Reportedly Secured	[Tel Aviv Radio]	27

JORDAN

French Minister Dumas Arrives 18 Dec	[Amman TV]	28
Holds Talks With King Husayn	[Amman Radio]	28
King Husayn Presents Award to Journalist al-Hattab	[PETRA-JNA]	28
U.S. Bears 'Greatest' Blame for Talks' Breakdown	[SAWT AL-SHA'B 19 Dec]	28

LEBANON

Remains of U.S. Hostage To Be Handed Over	[VOL]	30
Columnist Expresses Doubts About Higgins' Death	[AL-DIYAR 10 Dec]	30
Buwayz Notes 'Negative' Israeli Approach in Talks	[VOL]	31
Shiite Council Objects to UNIFIL Withdrawal	[Beirut Radio]	31
Hizballah on Repeal of UN Zionism Resolution	[Voice of the Oppressed]	31
Hizballah Says Bush 'Terrorist Number One'	[AL-AHD 13 Dec]	32

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives DPRK Minister 18 Dec	[Damascus Radio]	33
---------------------------------------	------------------	----

Press Terms Peace Talks Israeli 'Time-Wasting' [Damascus Radio]	33
Repeal of UN Resolution 'Harmful Precedent' [Damascus Radio]	33

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Tripartite Peace Talks Set for 21-22 Dec [THE MUSLIM 18 Dec]	34
Farah Governor Goes Over to Mojahedin [Tehran Radio]	34

India

Kashmir Militants Seek Independent Republic [AFP]	34
Troops Posted on Rajasthan-Punjab-Pakistan Border [Delhi Radio]	35
Assam Rebels Offer To Negotiate With Government [Delhi Radio]	35
Bangladesh, Burma Support for Insurgents Protested [Delhi Radio]	35
Commentary Hails Outcome of Li Peng Visit [Delhi International]	35
Arrested Tibetans Released; Police Actions Denied [Delhi Radio]	36
Import Curb To Be Relaxed After Inflation Falls [Delhi Radio]	36
Trade Deficit Decreases Past 6 Months [Delhi Radio]	37

Iran

President Offers To Recognize Russia, Republics [Tehran Radio]	37
Rutskoy Proposes Prisoner Release Plan [Tehran Radio]	37
Rutskoy, Velayati View Relations [Tehran Radio]	37
Cabinet Approves Consulates in Soviet Republics [Tehran Radio]	38
Soviet Republics' Right To Favor Iran Noted [IRNA]	38
Daily Views Future Afghan 'Leadership Council' [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 7 Dec]	38
'Sources' Disclose Security Accord With Sudan [London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 15 Dec]	39
Khamene'i Congratulates Nation on UN Declaration [Tehran Radio]	39
Daily Protests UN Decision on Zionism Resolution [IRNA]	40
Iraq Returns Body of Former Oil Minister [IRNA]	40
Leader's Representative on Universities, Seminaries [Tehran Radio]	40

Pakistan

President Addresses Joint Session of Parliament	40
Opposition To Boycott Speech [Delhi Radio]	40
Khan Says 'Right Direction' Followed [Islamabad International]	41
'Thousands' Clash Outside Parliament [AFP]	41
Government Welcomes Afghan Arms Cutoff [AFP]	41
Accords Signed With Central Asian Republics [Islamabad Radio]	42
Spokesman Previews Sharif Visit to Colombo [Islamabad Radio]	42

Arab-Israeli Talks

"It is now final; the talks did not take off," Israeli negotiator Rubinstein told Jerusalem radio, adding that "although the gap was small, it was not bridged." The talks will resume on 7 January, but the venue has not yet been decided, according to the radio. The chief Lebanese negotiator, however, told Voice of Lebanon that Israel had proposed 8 January, "and the Lebanese delegation did not object." Palestinian and Jordanian negotiators continued to grant interviews to Israeli media.

Lebanon

"The remains of one of the two U.S. hostages, Buckley or Higgins," will be handed over "within the next 24 hours," according to a statement by "fundamentalist sources" and reported by Voice of Lebanon. It is hoped that the move will be seen as a "gesture of goodwill" regarding the release of prisoners held in Israeli jails, the statement continued. Meanwhile, a columnist writing in AL-DIYAR questioned whether Higgins had, in fact, died. The Shiite Islamic Council objected to the withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces, Beirut radio reported. A Hizballah statement published in AL-AHD termed President Bush "terrorist number one."

Israel

Ariel Sharon announced his intention to run for prime minister, Jerusalem television reported. Sharon "sharply attacked" government policy in the political process, calling the Israeli negotiators "schlemiels," the television continued.

Iraq

Another class of officers was demobilized, according to INA, which cited the Defense Ministry newspaper's comment that the move would "underscore the firm and stable security situation" in the country. The son of Shiite Grand Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i denied rumors, said to originate from Israeli radio, that his father had died, IRNA reported.

Jordan

The French foreign minister arrived, Amman radio reported. King Husayn received and decorated journalist Sultan al-Hattab, PETRA noted. Al-Hattab had earlier been expelled from the national journalists association for granting an interview to Israeli television.

Syria

Al-Asad received the DPRK minister of external economic affairs, Damascus radio reported.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the Russian vice president and stated that Iran is "ready to recognize Russian and other independent republics," Tehran radio reported. Ruskoy proposed a prisoner exchange program, the radio added. The details of a "military and security agreement" with Sudan were reported by the London paper AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI.

Arabian Peninsula

The GCC chief spoke about Gulf security issues, in an interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI.

Afghanistan

Talks between Russian, Pakistani, and mojahedin leaders will take place in Islamabad starting 21 December, according to the Islamabad paper THE MUSLIM.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Delegation Head on Outcome of Talks

JN1912091091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the talks of the second phase of the Middle East peace process, held a news conference yesterday afternoon in which he explained in detail the reasons that prevented any progress from being made in these talks. Al-'Allaf said: It is no secret that no progress has been achieved, either during the two weeks of talks in Washington or during the bilateral meetings that took place in Madrid. The sole reason for this in both cases is Israel's insistence on creating obstacles, first, during discussions on procedural issues, and again during the few hours in which the talks somewhat dealt with substantive issues.

Al-'Allaf added that as everyone knows, two important elements in these talks—the Palestinian and Jordanian sides to these talks—did not have a chance even to meet in the meeting hall to discuss substantive issues. The two sides had to remain in U.S. corridors to seek a solution to a problem that would not have emerged had there been seriousness on the part of Israel with regard to the peace process.

Al-'Allaf continued: Concerning the Syrian Arab delegation's meetings with the Israeli side, however, not a single step forward has been made after six meetings, the reason being that Israel, despite its acceptance of the peace process alongside the rest of the parties, took every opportunity to prevent progress from being made during these talks. Al-'Allaf said: Every time we tried to talk about the means to implement the bases of the peace process, as represented by Resolution 242 of 1967 and Resolution 338 of 1973, they aborted such an attempt and refused even to accept the only principle stemming from Resolution 242 despite their frequent pronouncements that they consider it to be the only resolution on which an Arab-Israeli settlement can be based.

Al-'Allaf added: For all that, we can say that the Israeli side, having wasted the time of all parties for nearly a week after their arrival in Washington, spent the last two weeks attempting either to prevent the parties from entering the meeting hall to engage in serious talks, or, when there were meetings, as happened with the Syrian and Lebanese delegations, doing their utmost to avoid discussions of the real issue and to raise all that is irrelevant to this issue or any issues that in themselves could be considered a consequence of the peace process.

Al-'Allaf said: They wanted to talk only about what they would eventually reap from peace, without agreeing to do their part to achieve peace. On our part, we tried to make them understand that, being aware of everybody's need for peace, both in the region and the world, we are ready to fulfill our side in the proposed peace equation based on the principle of trading land for peace. Al-'Allaf indicated that during the few meetings that were held in Washington, the Israelis repeated what they had done in

Madrid; thus, at every meeting they raised the issue of choosing a place other than Washington, before achieving even limited results from our presence there.

Al-'Allaf added: When we agreed to go to Madrid and then to come here, it was out of a sincere desire to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Therefore, everybody must have witnessed to what extent we have been patient and tried to save the process from failure. When they failed to show up at the meeting on the original date set by the cosponsors, we waited. Every time they raised obstacles during the meetings, we expressed the hope that they would realize that peace is in the interests of all. That continued until we reached the current state of affairs, in light of which we had to agree that the talks be adjourned following yesterday's meeting, and proposed 7 January as a date for the resumption of talks in the hope that by that time they would decide to stop creating obstacles to the meetings with the Palestinian and Jordanian delegations, and that they would come with a sincere intention to achieve peace after all the time that has been wasted.

In his news conference, al-'Allaf said that the Israeli side did not accept the date proposed by the Syrian Arab delegation for the resumption of the talks and demanded that it be delayed. He said that choosing a new date during the first half of January is left to the cosponsors of the peace conference to decide.

On Israeli 'Intransigence'

JN1812135591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Washington—The Arab delegations to the second phase of the Middle East peace talks held a meeting at the Syrian delegation's residence last night to coordinate positions to face the Israeli intransigence in these talks, which have led to no progress in the peace process being made so far.

After the meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, answered journalists' questions on his expectations with regard to the upcoming talks with the Israeli side. He said: We will see if the Israeli side will stay, especially since there are conflicting reports on whether or not it will stay until Thursday. He added: For our part, we will stay and continue talks. We have come to Washington to continue talks.

Asked whether there is a link between the escalation in the Israeli intransigence in yesterday's talks with Arab delegations, and the UN General Assembly's decision to abrogate the resolution equating Zionism with racism, al-'Allaf said: There could be such a linkage, or relationship. Israel, however, usually does not need excuses to escalate its intransigence when it wants to attain a certain aim. It seems that they prevaricate and maneuver merely to gain time.

On the context of the talks that were held with the Israelis, al-'Allaf said: We were trying to discuss substantive issues, but they always returned to procedural issues—issues related to the venue and others that have nothing to do with the peace process. [passage omitted]

The second phase talks of the Middle East peace process are scheduled to resume in Washington at 1100 today, Washington time. [passage omitted]

Rejects 'Allegations' on Golan

JN1812215091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Washington—Meetings of the second phase of talks on peace in the Middle East were today adjourned to an unspecified date in the first half of January 1992, to be decided upon in agreement with the cosponsors of the peace conference.

Following the meeting, which was held this morning at the U.S. State Department building, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, said the Syrian delegation insists on resuming the talks in Washington until tangible results are achieved. He added: We are prepared to return at the appropriate time when the two cosponsors of the conference specify an appropriate date.

Al-'Allaf said: The major part of today's meeting was spent refuting Israeli allegations that the Syrian Arab Golan Heights were the base for launching attacks against Israel before they were occupied in the 1967 aggression.

He added: We told them to stop these allegations and lies. The records of the United Nations and the Syrian-Israeli truce supervision committee refute their allegations. Furthermore, the UN Security Council adopted a number of resolutions during that period which denounced Israeli aggressions. We have read out these resolutions and counted the number of times the truce supervision committee denounced Israeli attacks against Syrian citizens and peaceful Syrian villages. They could not show any resolution by the UN Security Council or the United Nations to the contrary.

Lebanon's Shammas on Date, Venue of Next Talks

NC1912061191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the Washington talks, has stated following a meeting with the Israeli delegation yesterday that the Lebanese proposed 7 January as a date for resuming negotiations. The Israelis, however, preferred 8 January for reasons they described as compelling, and the Lebanese delegation did not object.

Regarding the venue of the coming negotiations, Ambassador Shammas said the Israelis suggested certain regions, not cities, adding that the Lebanese delegation hopes the talks will be held in Washington, but any other

alternatives will be discussed in due course. Shammas described the negotiations as difficult.

Progress Linked to Syrian-Israeli Talks

NC1712191691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Report by correspondent Nuhad al-Hayik from Washington on 17 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] Arab and Israeli delegations resumed their talks for the fifth day in Washington but hopes for any progress have dwindled following the stalemate of the past few days and in view of reports that the Israeli delegation intends to leave the U.S. capital in the next two days. The main snag so far has been encountered on the Palestinian-Jordanian front, as the two sides failed to find a proper manner in which to conduct the talks, but other snags have also appeared on the Lebanese and Syrian fronts.

Although earlier news spoke of smooth progress on the Lebanese-Israeli front, a source close to the Lebanese delegation told us that no progress can be made in the Lebanese-Israeli talks unless the Syrian-Israeli talks move ahead, which seems unlikely, as the Syrians and Israelis have so far failed to find any common ground.

On the Palestinian-Jordanian front, the delegations were lost in a maze of proposals and counterproposals. The heads of the Palestinian, Jordanian, and Israeli delegations will meet today at the U.S. State Department. The Palestinians are awaiting the Israeli response to their latest proposal aiming to end the dispute and find a compromise that would allow the official talks to begin on substantive matters. [passage omitted]

Additional Comment by Delegation Heads

JN1812192891 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Abdallah al-'Utum report from Washington]

[Text] Despite expectations that the negotiations of the second phase in Washington will be complicated and lengthy, some very minor progress was actually made, but did not lead to any specific results until the end of the first round of negotiations. Israel is still trying to endorse the peace process in its favor, while the Arab countries are adhering to their basic positions to solve the core of the principal issue—the retrieval of territory in exchange for peace. The session is still going on in the State Department corridors among the members of the three delegations. The Israeli delegation announced that it would leave for Tel Aviv this afternoon, Washington time, and the information leaking from inside is scarce. Reports say that this session is the last, but other reports indicate the possibility of another session this evening. The issue has not yet been decided, however, and we will send you any new details we obtain.

Jordanian Television solicited the opinions of the delegations participating in the negotiations.

[Begin recording] [Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, chief Jordanian delegate] We are continuing to adhere to the basic elements in Jordan's position. We will not negotiate for the Palestinians at all. They will negotiate on their own cause. We totally and strongly support them, but will not negotiate for them. Regrettably, the Israelis wrongfully want us to be otherwise. We will not abandon our basic position.

[Murwafaq al-'Alia, chief Syrian delegate] We have been trying to discuss substantive issues, but they have been returning to procedural issues, the venue issue, and matters that have no connection with the peace process. They even raised some matters related to the sovereignty of Syria and the Arab sides. We have been trying to drag them into discussing the peace process. They are procrastinating and maneuvering. We have spent two or three weeks without making any progress.

[Sahayl Shammas, chief Lebanese delegate] We adopted a clear-cut position, and we believe that our position is firm and clear. Our demand is legitimate and fair. There will be no progress toward peace unless Resolution 425 is implemented through its mechanism stipulated in Resolution 426. Now, you have to listen to others just as others listen to you. As we have written and said, we believe that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is governed by the al-Ta'if agreement, which won large-scale international support. The Israeli presence, or more correctly, the Israeli occupation of Lebanon is governed by Resolution 425 through the mechanism that calls for its implementation, in accordance with Resolution 426. Any other discussion should lead to this point. All legal tools—call them what you will, such as treaties or agreements—can be reached only through a framework of a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution.

[Sa'ib 'Urzuqat, member of the Palestinian delegation] We have spared no effort to present practical proposals to maintain the status of the joint delegation as well as the status of every track. But it became clear today that the Israeli negotiator is procrastinating, is procrastinating, and is procrastinating, and does not want to enter into substantive issues.

[Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation] There were talks on how to break this stalemate and to begin direct bilateral negotiations on substance. But there was no basic change in the situation. [end recording]

Jordanians, Palestinians on 'Deadlock'

JN1812183491 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] In a telephone interview a short while ago, our correspondent in Washington says that the talks with Israel have reached a deadlock and that the second phase of talks has ended without agreement.

Our media team in Washington has provided via satellite the following statement by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation:

[Begin al-Majali recording] We met for two hours to find a way to agree on the meeting. Regrettably we have not reached a solution, because Israel continues to demand that the joint meeting be held in accordance with its own method; namely, that each of us is one-half of a delegation, thus contradicting the terms of the invitation to the conference and the letters we received from the cosponsors [preceding word in English].

We demand implementation of the terms of the invitation, which state that there is an Arab-Israeli track—and we are part of this track—and a Palestinian-Israeli track to discuss the transitional phase. They want to mix both sides and we do not accept this, because we will not negotiate on the Palestinian people's behalf. The Palestinian people should discuss and negotiate for themselves. We stand with all of our strength, however, at their side. If there is anything between us and the Palestinian brothers, there will be discussion between us without Israeli mediation.

That is what we have today. Therefore, the meeting ended and a tenuous binding string was left in the hope that Israel will change its position and return to a just and right stand, and accept that we will resume negotiations if it really intends to realize peace. [end recording]

Jordanian, Palestinian Chief Delegates Comment

JN1812205991 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 2000 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The second round of Arab-Israeli peace talks ended in Washington and were reported deadlocked. The chief Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli negotiators met in a State Department corridor for the sixth day, but there was no breakthrough on procedure.

Israel has been insisting on talking to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and has refused so far to talk separately to the Palestinian negotiating team.

In separate talks between Israel and Syria, and Israel and Lebanon, the negotiators have not come out with any results to announce.

[Begin recording] [Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian team in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation] And I said we are waiting, we are still in Washington and we will be in Washington today, tomorrow, at any day they decide that they are going to resume the meeting. So we are here, waiting for a decision on their side to come to reason.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct?]

[Al-Majali] Well, if they accept that we will meet on the tracks as been stipulated, as we have talked in the last six days of meetings, that they will meet in the tracks and we

sit and talk real substance. So far we just been dragged and dragged to be in the procedure, and on the procedure, and on the procedure, and then they set the time to leave. So I don't know; I mean we are in such a situation that we could not accept to be dictated to. We have told them let us go to the cosponsors and talk to them, they may bridge, they may find some solution. They refused bluntly. They said: We do not accept the idea of a sponsor. I asked them why, because at least let us say we are friends and we go to another friend. They refused even the idea of another friend helping us to try to find something, especially after we discussed this for six solid days. I think we had enough, so we had to have a friend of both to come and find a solution, if there is a solution.

[Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian team] Now the important thing, the only thing I want to say is that Israel has been calling for the last 24 years to sit with the Palestinians on the negotiating table, and she was calling and calling and calling for meeting with the Palestinians on the negotiating table. After all this, we came up here and we take all the difficulties, we come up here and to respond to this demand and to talk with them, and they refused to sit with us. They refused except on, by, a joint delegation with the Jordanians, in spite of the stipulation in the invitation that there is an Israeli-Palestinian track and an Arab-Israeli track.

So really they are going back on what they were declaring all the time; that they want to speak directly with the Palestinians. And here we are, they don't want to talk with us. They only want to talk with us with the company of the Jordanians. It is our privilege to be with our Jordanian friends, but things must be in order according to the ground rules stipulated in the letter of invitation, and certainly it reflects negatively on their previous calls for meeting directly with the Palestinians, and now they reneged on their repeated offer to meet with the Palestinians on the negotiating table. So we are sorry that this has reached this snag, this impasse. We are not despairing, we are still committed to the peace process. We hope by the help of the sponsors that there will be a resolution for this impasse. [end recording]

Jordanian Spokesman on Washington Talks

JN1912072491 Amman Radio Jordan in English
0530 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The official spokesman of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks has announced that the delegation will remain in Washington today. Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said the Jordanian team is ready to start substantive bilateral negotiations when the Israelis are prepared to do so. He was speaking to reporters in the American capital last night at the end of a meeting between the Jordanian-Palestinian and Israeli delegations.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the Israelis refused to give an explanation of the contents of the invitation message which is based on the two-track principle. He said the

Israelis also refused to take the case to the cosponsors of the conference, saying they even did not believe in the idea of cosponsors.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir regretted statements by the Israeli deputy foreign minister and the spokesman of the Israeli delegation who said Jordan is Palestine. He said Jordan is a sovereign state, and that the Palestinian people have the right to demand recognition of their legitimate and national rights.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added that according to the invitation messages and letters of assurance, the three negotiating parties have the right to collectively ask the cosponsors to intervene and settle any dispute throughout the negotiations.

Also in Washington last night, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said the Israeli delegation put the question of Palestinian representation in a way contrary to what was agreed upon in Madrid. She said the Israelis went to Washington only to dictate the Israeli position on how things should proceed, and to discuss only procedural matters.

'Ashrawi Briefs Media on Washington Talks

JN1912113791 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
0950 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Washington, 19 Dec (PETRA)—In a news conference yesterday, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, media spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations in Washington, said: We are a people that has been under occupation for 24 years. We have come to the peace negotiations, and we have been seeking peace for a long time. We have portrayed our commitment in this regard.

She added: We have come here entrusted by our people and our political leadership as a negotiating delegation. We have done all we could to begin negotiations with the Israelis in accordance with the letters of invitation and assurances and their terms of reference. They refuse to negotiate with us, and they procrastinate. Proof of this is that we came on 4 December, but they did not show up. We began the meetings in the corridors, and we did not enter the rooms assigned for them. They presented the issue of Palestinian representation in a way contrary to what was agreed on in Madrid, and contrary to the U.S. letters of invitation and assurances.

She stressed that the Israeli side insists on procrastinating, and rejecting our proposals. Among these proposals was holding a three-way meeting for a certain period of time with an agenda limited to discussing procedural issues. They, however, rejected this proposal. We cannot make any more concessions, and we cannot accept peace at any price.

She added: It seems that Shamir was telling the truth when he stated that the Israeli negotiating delegation in Washington is only authorized to discuss procedural issues, and the venue of the negotiations and their

mechanism. It also seems that they have come merely to score points with the United States, and to dictate the Israeli position on how things should proceed.

She also said: We feel that the attempted Israeli procrastination in no way reflects the positions of all Israelis, according to opinion polls. We know that the Israeli people are concerned with peace. We hope to address the Israeli people directly, and ask them to extend their hands to us, raise their voices calling for peace and direct negotiations with the Palestinians, and put an end to a bitter history of conflict.

She added: We had hoped that the cosponsors of the conference would work with good intentions. Regrettably, we do not find them here. We had thought that we would negotiate on an equal basis. This, however, did not take place. We had also hoped that the Israelis would accept turning to the United States, but they said that there were no cosponsors of the conference, and changed all previous agreements. All this indicates that they lack readiness, desire, and commitment to the peace process.

She said: We will return to the sons of our people who will pay more and more in terms of destruction, killing, crushing, uprooting of trees, military orders, and an impossible life under occupation. She said that the Palestinian people refused to submit and yield throughout the years of occupation, and we, here today, refuse to submit.

Concluding her news conference, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: We will stay here for two or three more days waiting for them. And we will return to Washington on 7 January.

On Attacks Against Palestinian Status

JN1812202091 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1540 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Washington, 18 Dec (PETRA)—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, has stated that Israel wants to cancel the Palestinian track by claiming that talks can take place within the framework of the joint delegation.

She asserted that only the joint delegation is entitled to determine its representation in the negotiations, as well as coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations, and that Israel wants to teach the joint delegation how to work and how to coordinate among its members.

She added that Israel wants to deal with the delegation as a joint, unified delegation, thus trying to prejudice the results and to emphasize that the Palestinians do not exist as a people or that Jordan is their alternative homeland.

She affirmed that by adopting this position, Israel is violating Jordan's sovereignty and Palestinian national rights, is trying to dictate its will, and is breaching the agreements contained in the letters of assurances and the letters of invitation to the Madrid conference, which stressed the existence of two tracks for the peace process:

Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks. Dr. 'Ashrawi added that Israel wants to cancel the Palestinian track.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said that Israel is trying to turn the two tracks into subcommittees, and to confine the Palestinian role to that status.

She affirmed: Our identity cannot be confined to a subcommittee because we are a people with national identity and land, over which we should have control.

She added: This is a basic and essential issue because ever since the beginning, Israel has been trying to cancel the idea of the independent Palestinian state by saying that Jordan is Palestine, that the Palestinians are a minority in Israel, and that it will grant them only the minimum level of self-rule.

She added: We expect the United States to deal with this position as a sponsor and a host, and to abide by the provisions of the agreement, which urges the United States not to allow any side to take unilateral action, prejudice the results, or procrastinate. Under the agreement, the United States should also play the role of a peace mediator because we are not equal parties. Israel is an occupation state and we are under occupation, and we need intervention by an effective third party to prevent terms from being dictated.

Israeli Media Report Developments in Talks

Jordanian-Palestinian Friction Seen

TA1712195591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari in Washington—live]

[Text] The talks still going on at the State Department seem to have made some progress, but a resolution of the framework of future talks with the Palestinians is still far away. In response to the recent Israeli position papers, the Palestinian delegation has just presented two additional position papers of its own. The meeting will continue later. [A report on Jerusalem Qol Yisrael in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 17 December quotes special correspondent in Washington Gidon Kouts as reporting that "the talks between the Israeli and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegations is on the verge of a crisis."]

Right now, even the Jordanians seem to be losing patience with their partners from the territories. Later they will discuss the matter with administration officials. To bolster the delegation after Fayal al-Husayni canceled his flight to Washington, Basal Aqil, another PLO envoy, secretly arrived here.

The Syrians have suggested that the delegations remain in Washington for another week—that is, until James Baker returns from his trip—but Israel wants to stop the talks tomorrow or the day after. In the meeting with the

Syrians, which has just ended, Israel presented an analysis prepared by David Afek—head of the Foreign Ministry's Center for Political Research—of Syrian statements about Israel, including some made in the course of the Washington talks. One such statement, made by delegation head Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, said that Syria has waited for a solution for 200 [figure as heard] years—a hint at the Crusades. Afek analyzed each and every Syrian stand, averring that Syria has not changed its positions even when sitting down to negotiations.

After that, the Israeli delegation presented Yig'al Karmon, the prime minister's adviser on countering terrorism, who showed a photostat of a Syrian passport seized on the body of a Fatah man near Gaza on Sunday and read out a long list of terrorist bases maintained by the Syrians on behalf of Palestinian and other organizations near Damascus. The head of the Syrian delegation said: I reject these fabrications. The latter is a quote. He intends to react to this at a later point.

In the talks with the Lebanese, which have just adjourned, Uri Lubrani very resolutely presented Israel's objection to some clauses of the al-Ta'if agreement referring to a continued Syrian presence in Lebanon. Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, will respond at the next meeting, which is due to start in one hour.

Talks With Palestinians, Syrians

TA1712203291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
2000 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] The talks between the Israeli and the Arab delegations will be resumed in Washington tomorrow. Tomorrow night, the Israeli delegates plan to leave on their way home.

The talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation are on the verge of collapse after the Palestinians rejected the Israeli compromise proposals. Elyasim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to talks with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, told our correspondent 'Oded Ben-Ami that he had hoped that today talks about substance would be initiated.

The corridor talks are scheduled to resume at midnight. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that the Palestinians have handed the Israeli delegation two memorandums: one demanding that settlement be stopped in return for substantive talks, and another calling for two-track negotiations.

A short while ago, the Jordanian delegation met with a U.S. assistant secretary of state, asking him to intervene in the affair.

The Syrian delegates pointed out today that they will not negotiate the withdrawal component of Resolution 242, although they are ready to discuss other components. The Israeli delegation presented detailed data proving that Syria supports terrorism. It also leveled sharp criticism at the Damascus decision to vote at the United Nations against the annexation of the resolution equating

Zionism with racism. The Syrians replied: The data are mendacious and unconnected with the peace process; we will furnish a detailed rebuttal tomorrow.

Reports on Developments in Reconvening of Talks

TA1812055191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0500 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The Israeli, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian-Palestinian delegations will meet again in Washington in several hours for the final round of talks in the current stage of the peace process.

'Oded Ben-Ami, our correspondent in Washington, reports that the Israeli delegation has put off its return home until tomorrow, and this evening its heads will meet with Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs. The Israelis will inform Djerejian of the conclusion of this round of talks and coordinate with him their resumption after Christmas. The heads of the Arab delegations also met with Djerejian and asked him to coordinate the resumption of the talks.

Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that while the Israelis expect the bilateral talks to resume in Washington next month, Arab sources have asserted that the talks will resume only in three months. The Jordanians and the Palestinians have announced that they will not oppose launching the multilateral talks before the bilateral talks resume; Syria, however, opposes this.

Sources in the Israeli delegation this morning said that they could not offer the Palestinians a more flexible proposal than the one already made. The sources told Arye Golan, our correspondent in Washington, that as far as it is concerned Israel has done the maximum to respect the Palestinians' demand for two-track negotiations. Now it is up to the Palestinians to show flexibility to bridge the gaps. Our correspondent pointed out that at this stage the difference between the positions of the two parties has narrowed down to only two points which mean allotting independent status, even if only in a symbolic sense, to the Palestinian delegation.

Talks To Resume 7 Jan, Venue Undecided

TA1812185491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1810 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Report by Arye Golan in Washington]

[Text] The talks are ending. A short time ago Elyasim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, came to the Madison Hotel where the delegation is residing before going on for a final summing-up meeting with Baker aide Djerejian and his assistants. It is now final; the talks did not take off. That is the expression used by Rubinstein. To our regret, he said: The talks did not manage to take off; the Israeli delegation is definitely leaving tonight. Agreement was at least reached on one thing: The talks will resume on 7 January, although the venue is still undecided. As is already known, the United States

proposed Washington, the Arabs will agree, and Israel has not yet given its answer.

Rubinstein explained that the Arabs did not give up their demand for some symbolic status for the Palestinian representation. He said that today an additional step was taken in the direction of the Palestinians. We tried to make progress to move on to negotiations along two tracks, but to our regret, Rubinstein added, although the gap was small, it was not bridged. The Palestinians insist on violating the rules of the letters of invitation to the Madrid conference, in which it was agreed that there would be a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Those rules are binding, and there will be no retreat from them, he said. Therefore, despite our genuine sorrow that we did not manage to take off, Rubinstein said, our days here were not wasted; there was some progress in the procedural negotiations, and the gap is small. He stressed the importance of personal contact, getting to know each other, and the informal talks conducted by all the delegations in that famous corridor in the State Department.

I asked Rubinstein why Israel did not agree, in view of the deadlock, to accept the Jordanian-Palestinian proposal to appeal to the cosponsors—the United States and the USSR—to help break the stalemate. Rubinstein said we have a lot of respect for the United States, which has done a great deal to further the political process, but there are now direct negotiations between the sides, which is what we and the United States want. With all our friendship for the United States and the Russians—who also support direct talks—our attraction to direct negotiations is greater than our love of Washington and U.S. mediation.

When the Jordanian and Palestinian delegation heads left earlier, they expressed their regret. They said they left Israel a short thread. There will still be a telephone contact between Rubinstein and his colleagues al-Majali and 'Abd-al-Shafi in a final effort to find a way out, but as it looks now this round has ended. Six days of talks have ended, and the Israeli delegation is returning home. The Jordanians and Palestinians are remaining for another day or two, but everybody is already preparing for 7 January to renew the negotiations. They might do better then.

Levi Sees 'No Crisis'

TA1812182391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1800 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that there is no crisis in the Washington talks although the Palestinians refuse to make real progress. In a briefing for the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York, Minister Levi said that the process we have begun will have ups and downs but there is no crisis and the talks will not stop. The Israeli teams will reconvene with the Arab side in several weeks.

Spokesman Netanyahu Interviewed on Talks TA1812162191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Washington by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Several hours before the first round of bilateral talks ends, as the parties have dug into their basic positions, while the Jordanians and Palestinians are caught up in the corridor, let me ask you: What progress have we made toward a comprehensive peace agreement with our neighbors?

[Netanyahu] We have taken several steps, a little more than just a few initial steps, on a long journey. One thing is clear: We are moving. Now, what has been achieved in Washington? First and foremost, we have continued, and to a large extent institutionalized, the concept of bilateral negotiations with two of the three delegations. There is no doubt in my mind that after we overcome the birth pangs we will resolve the problem of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Another achievement in Washington is that we have made U.S. public opinion, and I believe the government as well, see that there is a need to respect three basic principles if we want the talks to progress:

First, we need minimum—rather than maximum—U.S. intervention. That is not to say that we are disqualifying any U.S. involvement at certain junctures for a certain purpose, and it is possible that we are at one now. The Arabs believed that in coming here they would be able to approach the Americans at every step and make them bend Israel and dictate to it; they very quickly discovered that we do not bend over so easily, and that the Americans are not very eager to press us.

Second, there is a general agreement, which is spreading here, that eventually the talks will have to move to the region, which is the natural site for them. Logistics are quite difficult from here; it is very hard to hold true consultations with decisionmakers. Let me tell you that after nearly three weeks here, we are getting to know the difficulties thoroughly.

[Friedman] The next round of talks in January, however, will be held in Washington. That's not quite in our region or close to the Middle East decisionmakers, is it?

[Netanyahu] We have not yet concluded that finally.

[Mardor] This is coming from Jerusalem.

[Netanyahu] Let me tell you something that might surprise you. I am not sure that the Arabs, although formally asking for Washington, really enjoy what they are discovering here. If they thought that they could beat us in the public relations war, they have found out that this too is not working. We are not without power here. We explain, clarify, and even convince. So, if they want to insist on Washington, we will listen to it. I am not at all certain that this would be so beneficial for them.

The third thing—beyond minimal U.S. intervention and eventually moving the talks to our region—is that I believe that correct, proper relations between Israel and the United States are needed. I discovered in my talks here that many in Washington understand that creating tense relations or artificial crises between us is not promoting the talks, but rather holding them up—making the Arabs toughen their stands. That is why I believe that among other things we have achieved here during the past three weeks, as far as Israel is concerned—besides the bilateral talks themselves with the Arabs—we have managed to attain an increasing understanding of the manner in which the talks should be held, and the manner of U.S. intervention in these negotiations.

[Mardor] Mr. Netanyahu, how do you interpret the vehement message Bush delivered to David Levi yesterday that we should start talking substance?

[Netanyahu] We are talking substance. We have no problem with that; just the opposite, I believe we fully accept the President's remark and understand and agree with it. After all, we are not the ones holding up the process. The Arabs tried to show that we are toughening our position or that we are not making reasonable offers, and so on. I believe that in revealing our offer last night—which is fair, reasonable, and I would even say generous, which takes into account the Arab desire to make progress on parallel tracks and our initial agreement to maintain the joint framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation—I believe this has almost completely aborted the attempt to tag us as the ones who are holding up the talks. Just the opposite is true.

[Friedman] At the same time, in the past Israel was quite indifferent to Palestinian representation. We said that it would be better if they showed up with the Jordanians, but that we would not oppose a separate delegation. Now, the joint representation has suddenly become sanctified. Why?

[Netanyahu] At the time, the reason was Jordan's move away from the process. As you would recall, King Husayn chose to cut himself off at a certain stage. It seems that he changed his mind; as a matter of fact, we know for sure that he changed his mind, and today he is involved. We have always wanted to solve the Palestinian problem, the problem of the Arab residents of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, in the framework of an agreement with Jordan. Now that Jordan is back in the picture, naturally we have returned to our original understanding. Furthermore, we are not the only ones who think that way. An explicit agreement has been made on that. Beyond the issue itself, there is also the question of respecting agreements during the negotiations. We insist on both the procedural and substantive issues, and I do not find this so difficult to explain.

[Friedman] Deputy Minister Netanyahu, thank you.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Israeli Media Interview Heads of Arab Delegations

Palestinian Chief Negotiator

TA1812183191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, by Shlomo Ganor in Washington on 18 December—recorded]

[Text] [Ganor] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, how would you sum up the round of talks that ended today?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The fact is that it was disappointing. We had imagined that by today we would have begun the substantive talks and discussions, but we are still in disagreement on a point that in my opinion is irrelevant—namely, the Israeli delegation does not want to talk with us as Palestinians with an independent identity within the framework of a joint delegation. We cannot accept this, and it is basically inconsistent with the Israeli call over many years that Israel only seeks to talk with the Palestinians directly. Here we are. For two weeks now we have been trying to talk, but Israel does not want to negotiate with us as Palestinians within the framework of a joint delegation. It wants to negotiate with the Jordanians and the Palestinians. Why?

[Ganor] Because this is what was agreed on with Baker.

['Abd-al-Shafi] The agreement was on two tracks. The agreement reached with Baker was on two tracks, an Israeli-Palestinian track and an Israeli-Arab track. The Palestinian-Israeli issues should be discussed in the Palestinian track. Why should the Palestinians be represented symbolically in the Palestinian track to preserve the characteristic of a joint delegation?

[Ganor] Do you intend to force the United States to intervene?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Actually, we do not want U.S. intervention to be necessary. Israel should adopt a position responsive to the letter of invitation so that we can begin the talks without U.S. intervention.

[Ganor] What is the way out of this deadlock?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That is in Israel's hands. It should comply with the stipulations in the letter of invitation. I like always to be optimistic and would like to appeal not only to Israeli officials but also to the Israeli masses. I believe that these masses have a definite interest in achieving a just peace. They, too, should help achieve a breakthrough in this crisis so that the road will be opened to serious negotiations on substantive issues.

Jordan's al-Majali

TA2912105J91 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
19 Dec 91 p 2

[Report on interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, by correspondent Gid'on Kouts, in Washington]

[Text] In a special interview given yesterday to the DAVAR correspondent, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation and a former minister of education and health in the Jordanian Government, summed up the first round of talks in Washington, "the corridor talks." He confirmed that the parties had agreed to resume the talks on 7 January in Washington, in two rounds of four or five days each, with morning and afternoon sessions.

"We have wasted far too much time on procedural matters," al-Majali said, noting that "at least we could agree on one thing—the date on which to resume the talks. The Israelis prefer to do things in small pieces and then present them as achievements."

Al-Majali said: "I do not know if we will go back to the sofa in January. I hope that when we get off the plane we can go straight into the conference room." He asserted: "We cannot forgo a two-track process with complete 14-member delegations. Jordan is a country just like Israel or Syria and we cannot meet with just half of the Israeli delegation. That is an insult. I proposed to Elyaqim Rubinstein that we appeal to the conference's sponsors, but he said: We do not recognize any sponsors. I said let us appeal to them as friends, but he refused." Al-Majali said he hoped that "the Israeli Government will issue its delegation new instructions. We will wait for the United States to arrange the invitations." He added that the Jordanians "could not conduct direct contacts with Israel over the phone." Al-Majali: "I have held many telephone conversations with the Israeli representatives from this room; issues we could not agree upon in long days of face-to-face meetings, however, will not be resolved over the phone."

The Jordanian delegate asserted that "there would be no point in holding multilateral talks unless the bilateral talks were renewed." "What for?" he asked, "To sit another 30 people on the sofa?"

Al-Majali, however, confirmed that the multilateral talks would nevertheless be held in Moscow on 28 or 29 January.

He also added: "King Husayn expressed personal interest in the talks, issued advice, and was constantly updated; however, he cannot come to Israel like al-Sadat." Al-Majali explained that "Jordan is smaller than Egypt and has a serious refugee problem. Israel has an interest in seeing this process move forward as fast as possible, but it will apparently take time. So far, we have been treading water."

Al-Majali, who will also head the Jordanian delegation at the next round of talks, estimated that Syria was now

more ready for peace with Israel, with the waning of the political influence wielded by the military.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Should 'Pressure' Israel on 'Stubborn Stands'

LD1812200291 *Algiers Voice of Palestine*
in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Administration rewarded the Israeli Government with its continuous work under the umbrella of the stick and carrot policy to cancel the UN 1975 resolution which considers Zionism as a form of racial discrimination, and it [the U.S. Administration] obtained this the day before yesterday at a time when the Jewish settlement (?policy) continues in our occupied land, and this government continues to impede bilateral talks in Washington and repeat its attempts to undermine the political and peaceful operation at its foundation. to its welcoming statement [of the cancelation], that the result of this vote at the United Nations has increased UN credibility at a time when it is serving the interests of peace, in the Madrid conference and the current negotiations resulting from it.

The White House can welcome this as much it wants in this context in conformity with the U.S. stand, which has been opposing the resolution for 16 years, and according to the strategic relations between the U.S. and Israel. However, we do not know how this White House allowed itself to consider that the issue is at the service of peace and the staggering peace negotiations.

Logic requires in this phase for the United States to put pressure on Yitzhaq Shamir's government to renounce its stubborn stands, to be in accordance with the results of the Madrid conference, and to cease its settlement plans and program, but the United States went against any reasonable logic and preferred to reward the intransigent rejectionist. Can this reward serve the aims of true peace and the principles of international legitimacy, which prescribe the ending of the Israeli occupation, the attainment of the national rights of our people, the establishment of peace, and the achievement of stability in the region?

What we fear, in fact, is that Shamir's government sees in this reward a new opportunity to go further in its rejection, its negligence concerning the peace process, and its contempt for the negotiations which are now at a crossroads due to this government's perseverance in wasting more time and its refusal to move toward dealing with the crucial matters and issues. Is the United States working for such a state, and is this the meaning of its talk about its victory at the United Nations?

Editorial Says Israel 'Gaining Time' in Talks

TA10042073691 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
9 Dec 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Tomorrow, the Second Round"]

[Text] After Israel stayed away from the specified date for the negotiations in Washington, the second round of these negotiations will begin tomorrow on the new date fixed for it, with the participation of all the parties concerned. According to observers, as much as Israel lost—on the propaganda level at least—from this absence, it scored a point by dishonoring the date set by the cosponsors, the United States and the Soviet Union. This signifies, in the proposed political framework, Israel's power to reject even procedural matters, without being subjected to serious pressure, especially by Washington.

Therefore, because the negotiations will begin tomorrow, according to statements by the spokesmen of the delegations as well as those by the U.S. State Department spokeswoman, it is essential to clarify that the Israeli Government's prior rejection of the date should be counted as a point against it

and should not be repeated during the expected phases in the second round of the negotiations.

In other words, the cosponsors of the conference should emphasize to the Israeli Government that it is not permitted to use the tactic or game of "gaining time" in any form or under any circumstances and that any repetition of its latest game will immediately mean that it will be held responsible for wrecking the peace process and exposing the region to great perils and horrors.

On the other hand, this negotiating round is supposed to deal with basic and substantive issues under the auspices of the United States. After the loss of six days due to the Israeli rejection of the date of 4 December, it is inconceivable for more time to be wasted in any procedural and marginal talks, irrespective of the conditions, pretexts, and justifications.

The road to peace is clear, and its foundations and bases are clear as well. Any foot-dragging is necessarily procrastination against peace itself and against international legitimacy, on which this peace is based.

Algeria

Bendjedid Warns of Upcoming New World Order

LD1812205391 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The president of the Republic received today, Wednesday, Mr. Abdelaziz Belkhadem, speaker of the People's National Assembly. The president of the Republic expressed his gratitude for the parliament's efforts despite the problems and the difficulties which have been the characteristic of the political and economic circumstances during the life of this parliament.

[Begin Bendjedid recording] This new [international] order is being created. People believe, however, that such a new order is a drawn-up program with a well-defined agenda. No, it is not like that. However, successive events have created a precedence which is being implemented today. The proof of this is the two examples: the strike against Iraq, and interference in internal affairs under the pretext of protecting human rights and oppressed minorities. The latter, i.e. oppressed minorities, will be used in the future against any country that wants to have a say. They will create internal problems for it and thereupon will interfere under the pretext of [protecting] an oppressed minority in our country as if they were really more sympathetic to such a minority than the sons of this country.

Good, someone might tomorrow interfere in your affairs. Suppose, for example, that a country has a minority that has been publicly protesting against the authority. Would you allow him to interfere tomorrow to help [the minority] or interfere in your internal affairs because a minority is being oppressed?

However, there is something which gives us scope: An oppressed minority should be protected by the United Nations. There is a law which ought to be applied to everyone. If they are talking about the border problem, borders between Third World countries and elsewhere can be used tomorrow [as a pretext]. They might stir up jingoism and doubts and push peoples to fight one another. And then they might come to contribute to solving others' problems.

Hence, this is the new international order. It began with those phenomena which we have witnessed. There are other things being planned. Tomorrow, the new international order will be imposed by the big powers and their satellites. [end recording]

FIS Supporters Among Guemar Attackers

LD1812123691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 0600 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] General Djaouadi, head of the Fourth Military Region, has made a statement on the events at the Guemar border post.

He pointed out that without prejudice to the conclusions of the ongoing investigations, it has already been established that activists and sympathizers of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] figure among the attackers. He added that the neutralization of the groups of attackers does not mean that all danger has been averted.

The defense minister has stated that the situation is completely under control on the borders.

Political Parties Present Platforms

LD1912095491 Algiers APS in English 1140 GMT
17 Dec 91

[Text] Algiers, 17/12/91 (APS)—The readings of display advertisement and themes developed by the leaders of political parties at meetings and debates held within the scope of the electoral campaign, discloses the steering ideas of each competing party's electoral strategy for Dec 26 elections. If the appeal for a massive voting, the alternance in power the preservation of constant values of the nation and the primacy of the higher interest of this very nation are voiced by all political parties, each party or at least each tendency, however, do have their own conception of the pattern of development they envisage to implement.

For parties of the Islamic tendency [words indistinct] theme developed on the occasion of this campaign for the first legislative elections is "the project of the Islamic society", "Islam is the solution". These slogans are particularly stressed by Islamic parties for which the main target remains the instoration [as received] of an Islamic state.

FLN (Le Front de Liberation Nationale) calls for "faithfulness to Nov 94 principles and values". The [word indistinct] of the economic reforms and the nation's constant values are prevailing in the speeches of FLN that considers that Algeria's salvation certainly depends on a consensus upon principles of labour, dialogue and cooperation between all components of the society.

Equality of rights between men and women, alternance in power, the will in the prospect of the instoration of a respect of the people's state of law. These are the main axes developed by the democratic tendency.

If FFS (Front des Forces Socialistes) (?tests) its electoral strategy on the ballot's legitimacy, the safeguard of civil peace, the fight against all forms of violence, that of RCD (Rassemblement Pour la Culture et la Democratie) relies among others on the criticism of the power.

As for MDA (Mouvement Pour la Democratie en Algerie), it stresses the necessity to organize anticipated presidential elections not to omit the importance of the legislative elections it qualifies as a "first step" towards the widening of the democratic (?peace).

The economic theme occupies an important place within the electoral strategy of certain political parties. [Party name indistinct] and (Le Parti National Pour la Solidarite et le

Developpement) aim the development of agriculture. They consider the key of the boosting of economy.

As for PRA (Party du [words indistinct]) as the vector of its advertisement message by reason of the climate of insecurity stemming from new practises such [words indistinct] events (where many people were killed).

Eventually, the purchasing power is the (?theme) developed by some parties which as PST (Parti Socialiste des Travailleurs) that set itself up as the defender of workers interests mainly pointing out the deterioration of the purchasing power.

Egypt

Serbian Foreign Minister Arrives, To Meet Ghali

LD1812185691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1526 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (TANJUG)—Serbian Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic arrived in Cairo today in order to have talks with new UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali and Egyptian officials about the crisis in Yugoslavia and to brief them on Serbia's efforts to resolve the crisis in a peaceful way.

Having arrived in Cairo, Jovanovic told TANJUG and Radio Belgrade that the goal of his brief visit was to provide Butrus Ghali, who is taking over the position of UN secretary general on 1 January "and who is immediately going to face one of the most complex crises in the world," with first-hand information on the situation in the country and Serbian positions on how to stop the war and find political solutions to "all aspects of the Yugoslav crisis."

"We will pay particular attention to the latest political and diplomatic activities in connection with the Yugoslav crisis, such as the EC declaration, perspectives of The Hague Conference, and primarily the encouraging progress of UN special envoy Cyrus Vance's mission as regards deployment of UN peace-keeping forces to Yugoslavia," Minister Jovanovic said. He added that special emphasis in the course of his talks with Ghali this evening, in light of the latter's new position, will be laid on the possibility of deploying Blue Berets.

"In particular, I will stress to Mr. Ghali Serbia's interest in a more pronounced, stronger, and more active UN role, not only in the peace-keeping forces operations, but also during the further negotiating process in view of the difficulties into which this process has fallen because of the unilateral and biased EC policy, especially by some of its most prominent members, and because they overstepped the mandate received by Yugoslav participants, CSCE, and the UN Security Council concerning their involvement in the Yugoslav crisis," added Jovanovic.

Before his talks with Ghali, Jovanovic met Fawzi al-Ibrashi, Egyptian deputy foreign minister, because Minister 'Amr Musa is visiting France today. Jovanovic drew the Egyptian

official's attention to the problems which "the selective and one-sided EC policy is creating in the work of The Hague conference," pointing out to him the importance of strengthening the UN role in stopping the war and stabilizing peace, and also to "the need for the UN to invest the greatest possible efforts so that the drive of the negotiating process may gather pace and help overcome the general state-political crisis in Yugoslavia."

The Egyptian senior official reiterated Cairo's support for every political solution agreeable to all Yugoslav peoples and republics and expressed the hope that the bloodshed in Yugoslavia will stop as soon as possible. Cairo sets high store by Yugoslavia's role and contribution as one of the founders of the UN and of the Nonaligned Movement, al-Ibrashi told Minister Jovanovic.

Reference was also made to a possible further involvement of non-aligned countries in providing support for the continuity and international-legal and political identity of Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia and Egypt have had traditionally good relations, which are developing successfully, was the conclusion arrived at during the Jovanovic-al-Ibrashi talks, during which the wish was expressed that many untapped chances to promote economic cooperation and other forms of cooperation between Egypt and Yugoslavia may materialize.

U.S., Israeli Moves on Peace Talks Assessed

NC1912085191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT
19 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM in its editorial today comments on the U.S. stand on the Washington peace talks.

The paper says that the talks could turn into an endless farce if Israel persists in rejecting the important principle of land for peace, which is the basis for the talks, and if it continues to build settlements in the occupied territories. It adds: Getting the parties to sit down and face each other has taken years to prepare and this could have exhausted all efforts so that there is only very little left to break the stagnation which started the moment the bilateral talks began. It adds that this is happening during the holiday season, when U.S. elections are coming, and when the Likud bloc is acting within its traditional rigid framework with its eyes on the ballot boxes.

AL-AHRAM adds that it is not true that the U.S. presidential election campaign requires George Bush's administration to make gains in the Middle East issue that would bolster it against the Democrats. In conclusion, it says there is no hope of real action, except from the negotiators themselves.

On the same issue, AL-AKHBAR says Washington has weakened its credibility in the Arab world following the great enthusiasm it has shown in mobilizing international support for repealing the UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism.

It adds in its editorial that this credibility will collapse if the Bush administration agrees to the loan guarantees Shamir is demanding in order to strengthen Israel's hold on the occupied territories. A period had been set that postponed a decision on the loans, and this period now has passed without achieving progress in the peace talks.

The paper then says: What happened at the peace talks was simply Israeli maneuvering, objections to marginal issues, and the avoidance of discussions on substantial issues. Peace depends on settling these issues and radically solving them. It adds that more days, weeks, and possibly months probably will pass before agreeing on the new venue for resuming the talks and the status of the Palestinian delegation, while the Israeli authorities will continue throughout this period to build Jewish settlements, thus making the peace negotiations lose their sole purpose.

Sudan

Iran Reportedly Provides Arms, Ammunition

PM1912090491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 18 Dec 91 pp 1, 4

[Uthman al-Mirghani report: "Iranian Arms Shipment to Sudanese 'Popular Defense'"]

[Excerpt] London—Despite the attempts to play down the issue of the military cooperation agreements between Sudan and Iran, at the end of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Khartoum Arab and Sudanese diplomatic sources revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that an Iranian ship carrying light arms and ammunition has arrived at Port Sudan.

The sources said that the ship has delivered light arms for use by the Sudanese People's Defense Forces as well as artillery ammunition and other light arms for the Sudanese Army.

These arms, the sources added, reached Port Sudan shortly before President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's departure from Khartoum at the end of his four-day visit, during which talks focused on economic, trade, security, and military cooperation and coordination.

At his news conference with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir the day before yesterday, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani denied that Iran had sent Army personnel to Sudan to train Sudanese forces, but said nothing about the shipment of light weapons. He said that the two countries were planning to enter into a military agreement in the near future.

The sources noted that the Sudanese People's Defense Forces are considered to be largely parallel to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and that the arrival of the arms shipment for the former was a strong indication of the cooperation between those two forces.

They added that some Sudanese citizens have in fact received training at Iranian Revolutionary Guards camps in Tehran.

In the field of nonmilitary cooperation, an Iranian oil shipment has arrived in Sudan, as has a similar shipment from Libya. Sudanese and Iranian sources put the value of the trade protocol signed between countries at \$100 million. [passage omitted]

State Aiding Algerian, Tunisian Fundamentalists

NC1812125391 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
15 Dec 91 p 7

[From the "Brothers Page"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum—exclusive—Arab diplomatic sources have reported that the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front extremists who carried out an armed attack against an Algerian post near the Tunisian border in late November were trained at a Sudanese camp used to train fundamentalist groups.

The same sources added that this group secretly arrived on the Algerian-Tunisian border via a European capital. This group's arrival in Algeria coincided with the arrival in Tunisia of a Tunisian group from Khartoum which intended to assassinate a group of officers from the Tunisian security agency. Tunisian authorities recently discovered two arms caches, one of which was in Nafzah, near the Tunisian-Algerian border, and which contained rifles, launchers, and B-10 guns.

According to the same sources, Sudan is the likely source of these weapons. The sources noted that Tunisian authorities seized documents on a number of the Al-Nahdah fundamentalist movement's members proving involvement by Sudan's Islamic Front government in backing the activities of the movement, which seeks to seize power in Tunisia.

According to reports recently published in Paris, Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi is in charge of indoctrinating and preparing the cadres being trained in Sudanese camps. The reports added that al-Turabi is also in charge of coordination among the fundamentalist groups in the Arab Maghreb and the extremist Afghan groups, which are following the fundamentalists' moves and attempts to seize power with extreme interest. The same reports noted that the fundamentalist training camps established by Sudan's Islamic Front government are situated in rough [su'] areas south of Khartoum under the direct supervision of the security apparatus. One of the regime's officials recently visited such a camp and rewarded eight Arab fundamentalists for their "good performance." The other camps are located in the Jabal al-Awliya' region, 40 km from Khartoum; the Kadaro region, north of Khartoum; and the al-Ma'aqil region, south of Khartoum. [passage omitted]

Rebel SPLA Official Comments on Bor Killings*AB1912102491 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 17 Dec 91*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Although John Garang remains the nominal head of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], the split of two of his senior commanders, Riak Machar and Lam Akol, continues to have its reverberations. They announced in August that Garang had been overthrown because of his dictatorial methods. He brushed aside the allegation, but almost immediately there were reports of fighting between Dinkas and Nubians in southern Sudan. Then last week we carried reports on this program of an indiscriminate massacre by troops loyal to Riak Mashar in Bor. Journalist Phillips Coffi had arrived in Bor shortly after the killings. He then made his way to Nasia [place-name as heard], where he asked Commander Riak for an explanation.

[Begin recording] [Machar] I would be surprised, yes, because that is not within what I would expect.... [changes thought] but normally, as far as I know, civilians move away from the battlefield. Normally they do that.

[Cofi] Well, some people have seen the bodies of two children, for example, in Bor who had been tied together, and they were dead. And I have seen a child dead on the road. I have seen a woman dead on the road. I have seen other civilians dead, and from what people tell me I think there was an awful lot of dead civilians.

[Machar] People die in cross fires. Civilians die in cross fires if they have not moved fast before the first bullet is shot. We are close relatives. We are the same people. One cannot just kill civilians deliberately. It must be in cross fire.

[Cofi] How do you account for the fact that the majority of the dead appear to be civilians? There were very few in military uniform.

[Machar] I doubt that very much because we recently destroyed about 15 task forces of Garang in that place. If their uniforms are taken away you will say this is a civilian.

[Cofi] Some people I have talked to there say they feel they have been betrayed by your forces and worse, the forces of Khartoum, because you were members of the SPLA.

[Machar] I am SPLA—not were members—I am SPLA, and I intend to take control of the SPLA or sack Garang. [end recording]

Former Official Ahmad al-Mirghani To Return*PM1812163291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 17 Dec 91 pp 1, 4*

[Unattributed report: "Ahmad al-Mirghani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Four Reasons Why I Decided To Return"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Ahmad al-Mirghani, former chairman of Sudan's State Council, has said that he will return to Khartoum tomorrow. He pointed out that his decision is personal and not partisan.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone from his residence in Alexandria, Ahmad al-Mirghani stated four reasons for his decision to return to Sudan. He listed them as follows:

1—The post of State Council chairman is a national one, and when I was elected it required me to work in accordance with a national approach divorced from political conflicts.

I was eager to pursue that policy because of my belief in the importance of the unity of the entire the Sudanese people, regardless of their differences.

2—In the past two years I have been away from the political conflict inside and outside Sudan.

3—My failure to return to Sudan in the past period was due to my state of health, which necessitated surgery.

I have been staying in Alexandria in the house of my father, may God rest his soul.

After God restored my health I decided to return to my homeland. I will avoid any work liable to cause any kind of political conflict. That does not prevent me from performing my religious, voluntary, and social activities, or from devoting time to my private business.

4—I decided to issue this statement so that there will be no confusion or interpretations incompatible with the position that I have maintained since 1986.

GCC Chief Discusses Regional Security Issues

PM1812113391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 17 Dec 91 p 5

[Interview with 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC, by Anwar al-Yasin in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Yasin] What is the Gulf's position on the plan proposed by the Sultanate of Oman to establish a 100,000-strong joint Gulf army? Is it true that there are differences among the Gulf states over the proposal?

[Bisharah] That subject will be discussed at the Kuwait summit. It is a new topic, one which should be given enough time and which deserves extended discussion. There are views which must be discussed, and there is no need to worry about that.

[Al-Yasin] What stage has been reached in the call for coordination between Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states? Have practical steps been taken in that regard?

[Bisharah] A meeting will be held within the next four months following agreement on some points between the GCC states and Iran during the New York meeting in September. The most important of these are the principles of cooperation. What is significant is that there is a firm desire for cooperation to develop relations. Reaching an understanding with neighbors is an important factor for the stability of the region, which must not return to the chapters of the past. The Gulf is a beautiful sea which our kinfolk and forefathers crossed, as did the Iranians', and cooperation among the principal parties is the pillar of security in the Gulf.

[Al-Yasin] It has been reported that you will visit Tehran shortly. When will that visit take place?

[Bisharah] The visit to Tehran is at an invitation from the Iranian Government within the framework of improving relations with the GCC states. We are proud of the invitation and will respond to it at the right time. We of the GCC states are eager to maintain cordial relations with Iran and all neighboring states. This is because the GCC's mission is a mission of peace, coexistence, and cooperation.

[Al-Yasin] What stage has been reached in implementing the "Damascus Declaration" mechanism? And will a meeting soon be held to that end?

[Bisharah] A meeting will be held in Doha in April to discuss questions concerning the implementation of the Damascus Declaration. And you must know that the Damascus Declaration is the new Arab order. Those who deviated from Arab legitimacy or those who kept silent about the Iraqi regime's crimes have no place in the new Arab order, whose foundation is the modernization of the formula of cooperation among the Arab states and the establishment of Arab-Arab relations on the basis of

the principles of international law, not rallying songs, and on common aims and common strategic views, not on greed for money, financial grants, and transfers of funds. We are a state, and we conduct our dealings on that basis. And this is the system of the new world order. [passage omitted]

[Al-Yasin] What stage has been reached in the consultations and meetings designed to end the question of demarcating Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders? Do you believe that this will be completely settled by next February?

[Bisharah] The arrangements for demarcating the borders will be completed in February 1992, in accordance with the Security Council resolution. But you must remember that the Iraqi regime refused to participate in the committee's proceedings. What is important is for the borders to be demarcated and for the demarcation to be endorsed by the UN Security Council. Then a fence would be erected, with salient posts reflecting the arbitration of international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Defense Ministry Says Iraq Returns Two Aircraft

AU1712161491 Paris AFP in English 1548 GMT
17 Dec 91

[Text] Kuwait City Dec 17 (AFP)—Iraq has returned two British-made Hawk aircraft to Kuwait out of 14 military planes that it seized during the occupation, reliable sources at the Defence Ministry said Tuesday [17 December].

They said U.S. pilots in the United Nations observers force in a demilitarized zone between the two countries recently flew back the planes, almost 10 months after Iraqi troops were driven out of the Emirate.

The other planes, including French-built Mirage fighters as well as training aircraft, are also expected to be returned to Kuwait, the sources said.

Further on Visit of Syrian Prime Minister

Holds Talks With Prime Minister

JN1712191391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait—Official talks between the Syrian side, led by Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister, and the Kuwaiti side, led by Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, were held in Kuwait today. [passage omitted]

At the outset of the meeting, His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, welcomed the prime minister and members of the Syrian delegation. He underlined the importance of this visit. There are positive signs to this visit, as represented by the firm cooperation between

Kuwait and Syria, which has supported Kuwait under all circumstances. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi thanked the heir apparent for the fraternal reception accorded to him and to members of the Syrian delegation in fraternal Kuwait. He also expressed appreciation for the sincere feelings of the Kuwaitis and noted the significance of this meeting. [passage omitted]

He said: Our visit to the State of Kuwait derives its significance from the goodwill that we all enjoy in Syria and Kuwait. This goodwill guides us on the path toward bolstering ties and promoting cooperation and solidarity among us, proceeding from our joint pan-Arab feelings, affiliation to our great Arab nation, and the joint endeavor to achieve our nation's hopes and aspirations. Such hopes primarily are aimed at saving the Arab situation and establishing an effective new Arab order based on the UN Charter, the Arab League Charter, and pan-Arab principles. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi added: Syria's people, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, are aware of the dangers posed to our Arab nation and its major issues. If Syria's response to the international efforts that were exerted to hold a peace conference was considered to be an important step on both an Arab and an international level, then Syria, provided that it is concerned about reaching genuine peace in the region, also realizes that the Israeli enemy, which from the start has not concealed its rejection of just and comprehensive bases for peace and which has thus far not ceased its maneuvers to obstruct the serious march toward peace, will continue to place obstacles and to hatch plots to achieve its expansionist objectives. This is because genuine peace will not be achieved in this region except through the implementation of UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, the attainment of the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights, and the liberation of the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

The two sides then discussed items on the meeting's agenda. These included issues pertaining to economic cooperation, trade exchange, consultations and exchanges of visits among officials, and holding meetings to promote bilateral relations in the interest of our countries' Arab peoples. It was decided that ministers on both sides will hold meetings to discuss ways to promote cooperation, each in his own field. The talks were permeated by a fraternal and cordial atmosphere in which both sides expressed their sincere desire to reinforce cooperation between Syria and Kuwait in all fields.

Al-Zu'bi extended to his highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister an official invitation to visit Syria. His highness accepted the invitation and promised to respond to it in the near future. [passage omitted]

Economic Agreement, Protocol Signed

JN1812154191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Kuwait—An agreement for trade and economic cooperation between Syria and Kuwait was signed at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce and Industry last night. The agreement was signed by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, and 'Abdallah Hasan al-Jarallah, Kuwaiti minister of commerce and industry.

The agreement includes facilitating the import and export of agricultural, animal, and industrial products, in addition to natural resources, between the two brotherly countries. The agreement also exempts most of these products from customs charges.

A protocol between Syria and Kuwait was also signed. It includes establishing a trade center in each country to sell Syrian and Kuwaiti products in both countries.

After signing the two agreements, Dr. al-'Imadi and al-Jarallah spoke about the depth of the fraternal relations in all fields between the two brotherly countries.

The Kuwaiti minister of commerce and industry praised the cordial relations between the two countries, and Syria's developments, especially after the new Investment Law No. 10 was issued.

Dr. al-'Imadi emphasized the need to entrench economic relations and to activate trade between Syria and Kuwait for the exchange of products between the two countries, especially after Investment Law No. 10 was issued, which greatly boosts investment in Syria.

Joint Communiqué Issued

JN1812202891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The following communiqué has been released in both Damascus and Kuwait regarding the visit made by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi to fraternal Kuwait:

Responding to a kind invitation from His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of the State of Kuwait, Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, made an official visit to the State of Kuwait from 16 to 18 December 1991. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprised of Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Yusuf al-Ahmad, transportation minister; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Khalid al-Mahayini, finance minister; Haydar Buzu, social affairs and labor minister; and Dr. Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the State of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti delegation was comprised of Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister;

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, minister of social affairs and labor; Dari 'Abdallah al-Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rudan, finance minister; 'Abdallah Hasan al-Jarallah, commerce and industry minister; Jawhar Habib Hayat, communications and transportation minister; and Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, received Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation. He conveyed to his highness a message of amity and friendship from his brother Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. His highness expressed his congratulations to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the fraternal Syrian people for the renewal of his excellency's term in office. His highness also hailed his recent visit to the Syrian Arab Republic and the cordial welcome accorded to him by his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the fraternal Syrian people.

Mahmud al-Zu'bi expressed the Syrian Arab Republic's congratulations on the liberation of the State of Kuwait and the return of sovereignty and legitimate government. He also expressed his admiration of the achievements attained in the field of rebuilding the State of Kuwait.

The two sides held talks in which a climate of friendship, fraternity, and understanding prevailed. Their viewpoints on Arab and international conditions were in agreement.

The two sides reviewed the devastating results of the unjust Iraqi aggression against and occupation of the State of Kuwait, and the flagrant violation of all established Arab, Islamic, and international principles and norms of behavior brought about by this aggression. They emphasized the need to give a new spirit to the joint Arab action and establish ties of cooperation among members of the Arab family on strong foundations based on the Arab League Charter, the Damascus Declaration, and international law.

They also emphasized the need for a commitment to the full and precise implementation of all Security Council resolutions related to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. In this regard, the two sides emphasized the need to continue Arab and international efforts, and also through human rights organizations, to bring about the immediate and full release of all Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees held in Iraq. They expressed their grave concern at the continuation of the ordeal, which constitutes a human tragedy.

The two sides also expressed their deepest regret at the ugliest forms of suffering that the Iraqi people are subjected to because of their regime's intransigence and destructive policy, and its refusal to abide by the application of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Kuwaiti side expressed its deep appreciation of and immense gratitude for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's

principled and courageous stand in condemning and denouncing the unjust Iraqi invasion immediately after it occurred, and for his efforts to attain the withdrawal of the attacking Iraqi forces and to return the legitimate government to Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti side also expressed its gratitude and appreciation for, as well as its pride in, Syria's participation in the liberation of Kuwait and the fraternal Syrian people's full support for the Kuwaiti people in the ordeal that befell them.

The two sides reviewed the progress of the Middle East peace process. The Kuwaiti side expressed its support and backing for Syria's pan-Arab position on these talks in terms of Syria's adherence to the need to liberate all occupied Arab territories, and guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace. The two sides hailed the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied territories and emphasized their continued support for the Palestinian people's struggle until they attain all their legitimate rights.

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi emphasized that Syria adopted a position in support of Kuwait based on its belief in Arab and international legitimacy; its rejection of aggression and invasion; and its adherence to Arab and international charters. He also emphasized that Syrian support will continue during the stage of rebuilding Kuwait. He expressed Syria's appreciation for the fraternal and constructive cooperation between the two brotherly countries, while emphasizing Syria's concern about Kuwait's participation in economic and investment activity in Syria.

In order to achieve the aforementioned, it was agreed during the talks to form a joint ministerial committee responsible for bolstering fraternal relations in all fields between the two countries. The committee will be headed by the Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs and the Kuwaiti finance minister. This committee will draw up its own mechanism.

Prospects of bilateral cooperation in all fields—political, economic, trade, scientific, technical, and others—were reviewed. It was agreed to extend facilities for Syrian workers in all specialties, and to encourage Syrian construction companies to contribute in the rebuilding of Kuwait, in addition to tackling the problems of Syrian citizens who used to reside in Kuwait.

Moreover, the two sides agreed to:

1. Set up an exhibit of Syrian products in Kuwait.
2. Establish a permanent Syrian trade center in Kuwait.
3. Encourage tourism and investment between the two countries
4. A bilateral trade agreement was signed.

The two sides reviewed the projects being financed by the Kuwaiti Development Fund in Syria. They agreed to intensify cooperation between the fund and the competent Syrian sides to carry out the agreed-upon projects.

The two sides expressed the importance of continued consultations and the exchange of visits between the leaders of the two countries at all levels.

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi expressed his deep appreciation and immense gratitude for the hospitality that he and his delegation were accorded. He extended an invitation to his brother His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, to visit his second country, Syria. His highness gratefully accepted the invitation. The timing of the visit will be fixed at a later date.

Al-Zu'bi Departs 18 Dec

NC1812105091 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Syrian Prime Minister Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi left Kuwait at noon today at the end of a three-day official visit. He was accorded an official farewell ceremony at Kuwait International Airport. His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, led those who saw him off at the airport. [passage omitted]

Paper Questions U.S. Neutrality in Peace Talks

LD1912084491 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0711 GMT
19 Dec 91

[Text] Today's AL-QABAS editorial asks if the Arabs have "a real wish to stop" the occurring deterioration in the Arab arena, and if there is "a serious plan to overcome it."

In its commentary on the UN repeal of its previous resolution considering Zionism to be a form of racism, the newspaper says that the only conclusion revealed by the UN vote exonerating Zionism from its racist essence is that the Arabs, "who are paying for the great sin committed by the ruler of Iraq—his criminal aggression against Kuwait—have become (?completely) exposed, that the number of countries sympathizing with or supporting their causes is continuously diminishing, and that the Arabs are in a state of disunity and weakness which deprives them of the ability to act and to influence, and probably even to react."

The editorial, entitled "Where Is Your Plan?" expresses surprise that Zionism was given this "exoneration certificate" while it is still adding "new daily crimes" to its "black" record in Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan.

It says if the "justification for rewarding Israel was, as it is said to be, to facilitate the peace process, then the evidence proves the contrary—the more one responds to Tel Aviv the more arrogant and aggressive it becomes."

The newspaper adds that the United States, which worked for the success of this resolution, has harmed its reputation "as a neutral broker" in the peace process and has thrown heavy shadows of doubt on the possibility of achieving a settlement from the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Son Denies Report of Shitte Cleric Kho'i's Death
*LD1812181991 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT
18 Dec 91*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Majid Kho'i, the son of Iraq-based Grand Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i, Wednesday denied rumors that his father has passed away.

The rumors of the grand ayatollah's demise were circulated in some Arab countries including Lebanon Wednesday.

Reports reaching here from Lebanon blamed a local Israeli radio for spreading the rumor which was described by the ayatollah's son as "a lie." Contacted by IRNA, the Tehran office of Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, said Majid Kho'i had told them by telephone from London that the rumor was baseless. Majid Kho'i was also quoted as saying that he had a telephone conversation with his father earlier today.

Meanwhile, Hojjat ol-Eslam Milani, who is in charge of the Kho'i Foundation in London in a telephone contact with IRNA office there brushed aside the rumors as a lie. He said the grand ayatollah was in satisfactory condition and his only problems were fatigue and insomnia. Milani added that a specialized doctor from Baghdad was to visit Ayatollah Kho'i at his residence in al-Kufah.

Opposition Says 12 Ba'thist Officials Killed
*NC1812153991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious
Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Dec 91*

[Text] A group of our mujahidin has successfully monitored an expanded Ba'thist meeting in the headquarters of the so-called People's Assembly on Palestine Street on 10 December. The meeting was being held to discuss the declaration of allegiance to the tyrant, the regime's security issues, and the need to allow party members to carry personal arms and rifles.

Having taken the necessary measures, an armed group of mujahidin attacked the venue of the meeting with machine guns and hand grenades, killing 12 conferees and seriously wounding a large number.

Opposition Reports Government Attacks Repelled
*NC1812154891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious
Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Dec 91*

[Text] In manifestation of the determination of the sons of our proud people to stand fast, our heroic revolutionaries courageously fought off an attack by the infidel regime's troops against the village of (?al-Jadhub) in the past few days. The following losses were inflicted on the attacking troops:

1. Four trucks were destroyed;
2. Two personnel carriers were destroyed;
3. One [word indistinct] was destroyed;

4. A total of 30 of the regime's mercenaries—whose bodies are still in the (?al-Jadhub) area—were killed; and,

5. Our popular troops confiscated some weapons and ammunition.

In another development, and further on what we reported yesterday, our correspondent who is accompanying the popular forces—which checked three battalions of the tyrant's guards in the area of (?Tahain)—has reported that our popular forces have succeeded in shooting down three helicopters. These were seen burning on their way down to the ground, along with their pilots, in the peripheries of the area of (?Tahain). Our correspondent succeeded in reaching one of these helicopters—a Gazelle—and actually saw it burned, along with its two pilots.

Opposition Notes 'Increasing Tension' in Baghdad
*NC1812163991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi
People in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Dec 91*

[Text] Baghdad has been the scene of increasing tension since the beginning of the month because the authorities of the defeated tyrant Saddam Husayn have imposed a form of a state of emergency in which the forces of the Republican Guard, and intelligence, security and police, and party organizations have been put on a state of extreme alert. Members of these institutions have been ordered to stay at party headquarters and to carry their weapons at all times.

Sources belonging to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] have pointed out that the sons of the rebellious Iraqi people, especially in Baghdad, have publicly started defying the oppressive authority by boycotting the institutions and henchmen of the regime, and by carrying out heroic operations against the murderers, the enemies of the oppressed people.

At the same time, Saddam's murder gangs started at the end of last week to bestially expel the residents of the village of (al-Nijarah), in al-'Adl subdistrict in the district of al-Majarr al-Kabir, which belongs to the governorate of al-'Amarah city.

SAIRI has affirmed that the tyrant Saddam's forces have for many weeks besieged and shelled this village and its vicinity with heavy artillery. They also prevented medicine and food from reaching it.

Later on, these forces gathered together the citizens in a bestial manner while robbing them and looting their properties, after which they destroyed their homes and then razed them to the ground. It is worth noting here that the subdistrict of al-'Adl and the areas around it in the marshlands of Maysan governorate are under a fierce siege imposed by the tyrant Saddam's forces in which they are using various heavy caliber weapons, in addition to helicopters, to disperse the residents of this area, destroy its residential districts, and cause heavy losses.

Interior Minister on Need for Security, Stability*JN1812163391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Dec 91*

[Text] Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan has affirmed the importance of respecting the law so that it can prove to be advantageous to the largest possible number of citizens.

During a meeting today with the president and members of the Iraqi Lawyers Association, the minister added: Drafting articles of the law and understanding them are both important, especially because this can help consecrate the law within the community by understanding the content of the law. The awareness of law enforcement agencies is helpful in this regard, he noted.

The interior minister emphasized the need to coordinate efforts among state agencies and the Interior Ministry to stem condemnable phenomena in society, and to render the best possible services to citizens in a manner that will help provide them with security, stability, and peace of mind.

Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan also met today with traffic directors in the governorates and sector commanders in Baghdad. During the meeting, the minister called for redoubling efforts to improve the traffic officers' performance of their duties with regard to safeguarding citizens' lives and property at this particular time in Iraq.

Class of Reserve Officers Demobilized*JN1912093591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Dec 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn has ordered the demobilization of class 32 of reserve officers, excluding physicians, as of next Saturday [21 December].

This has been stated to the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, published here today, by Staff Lieutenant General Salah 'Abbud, assistant chief of staff for administration.

He said that other classes of reserve officers will be demobilized in accordance with a timetable that has been prepared and which will be implemented in the next few weeks.

It should be mentioned that eight classes of reserve officers were demobilized after the 30-state U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH says that the demobilization of class 32 of reserve officers, and the upcoming demobilization of other classes, underscore the firm and stable security situation in great Iraq, which will continue to live in dignity and might under our leader and symbol of our pride, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Report Details War Damage to Baghdad Water System*JN1812152091 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 18 Dec 91*

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 18, INA—An international study team on the Gulf crisis comprehensively surveyed the impact of the crisis on the Iraqi people, from August 23 to September 5, the 87-member team visited Iraq's 30 largest cities in the country's 18 provinces, including rural areas.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper said today that the team added that production over recent months has been at a rate of only 12,000 metric tons/year, a little over 25 per cent.

The aluminum hydroxide stock is only enough to last about four months. So plant managers have requested customers, 95 per cent of whom are water treatment plants, to conserve on aluminum usage. The biggest factor limiting production is lack of spare parts. The stainless steel belt used to crystallize the aluminum to the degree of hydration desired is out of operation due to lack of spare parts. Also, the reactor vessel will be shut down because of the need for spare parts, according to the team.

The pre-war number of tanker trucks for water delivery has been cut in half in al-Ramadi, about 160 km west of Baghdad.

Due to a lack of spare parts, the plant is producing at only 70 per cent capacity, and 30 pumps are out of operation, said the team adding that the plant suffered minor collateral damage from the bombing of a bridge about 1000 metres upstream. The pumping schedule to the distribution system is 6 hours per day due to the lack of chlorine.

According to the team, al-Ramadi lacks sewerage system and uses septic tanks instead. Some rural areas have sewerage. Two sewage treatment plants in the province lack spare parts and consequently are inoperable. The al-Ramadi water pipeline delivers water into the desert for 500 km to the west. The area is barren, and the pipeline is the only reliable source of water. The pipeline has main pumping station at the river intake and seven booster stations. Three of the booster stations were destroyed by direct hits. The bombs destroyed the generator room, the transformer, standby generator, and the entire pump building.

Baghdad, located on the Tigris River in central Iraq, has seven water treatment plants with a total capacity of 1,600,000 m³ [cubic meter] per day.

Before the war, the team said, water production averaged 1,420,000 m³ per day. The water treatment plants operated continuously, but demand exceeded production and so the distribution system was operated with a scheduling of two days on and two days off. As in most cities, roof tanks are used to provide water during the off-period, according to the team.

As for present condition, the team said, following the war, water production dropped to 75 l/c/d [liter per capita per day], with house-hold use estimated at 25 l/c/d. Standby generators could produce only 50 percent of plant capacity. Operation was at first only 30 hours per week. At Saddam City (a section of one million population), the residents do not have roof tanks so people take water from where they can find it. By April, the electricity generating capacity was partially restored and water production increased.

Electric power supply is intermittent and operation in conjunction with the standby power is difficult. Consequently, a formerly continuous supply of potable water has been reduced to intermittent production. The water treatment plants also suffer from a lack of spare parts, and are completely dependent on humanitarian organizations for chlorine. As a result, the chlorine residual has dropped from 4 mg/l [milligram per liter] to 2 mg/l, leaving 0.01 mg/l in the distribution system, via-a-vis a normal target level of 0.5 mg/l.

Before the war the chlorine/coliform "failure" rate from samples taken was only 0.01 per cent. At this time the rate is about 15 per cent in the region called New Baghdad (southeast). Now the water production is 40-60 per cent of plant capacity, or 150 l/c/d. Lower flows increase the risk of cross connection which is compounded by an inadequate chlorine supply.

On wastewater collection and treatment the team added the city of Baghdad has 1,600 km of networks and two sewage treatment plants, al-Rustumiyah and Dawrah. Capacities are measured in terms of population served. Al-Rustumiyah serves 3 million persons and Dawrah serves 1.5 million. The plants are complete mix activated sludge. [sentence as received]

During pre-war condition, the sewerage system has 252 lift stations, 10 major pump stations and 6,000 km of network.

But in present condition, lift station pumping stopped for lack of electricity. The result was 1,600 blockages, 470 broken pipes, and overflowing manholes. By June, 200 blockages and 259 broken pipes remain. There are no spare parts for the pump station, the team said.

Only about 20 per cent of the approximately 100 aeration basins, were operational at the al-Rustumiyah. The discharge is directly into a river tributary of the Tigris. The dispersion pattern from the effluent is clearly discernible as a black effluent is clearly discernible as a black effluent against a green river water. [sentence as received] The al-Rustumiyah WWTP [waste water treatment plant] sustained bomb damage to one of its lines which has not been repaired.

The sewage collection system is in great jeopardy of total collapse unless spare parts can be obtained to maintain the lift station pumps. Such a collapse would have dramatic public health and economic consequences. The effects would be felt country-wide as the pumps function.

The discharge of such large flows of a health and ecological hazard. [sentence as received]

Al-Kut-Wasit Governorate population was reported to be approximately 57,300 with a population of 15,000 to 20,000 in the city of al-Kut. [figures as received] On 26 August, Eng. 'Abd-al-Wahhab [not further identified] visited al-Kut, interviewed Eng. Husayn Rasul Jasim, director of the Wasit Water and Sewage Authority, Eng. Mahdi 'Abbas, director of the water treatment plant laboratory, and operator personnel, and inspected and photographed the al-Kut WTP [water treatment plant]. According to the team the central treatment plant draws its raw water from the Tigris River, which is immediately adjacent to the plant. The plant has primary sedimentation (with the addition of aluminum), sand filtration, and gas chlorination. After chlorination the water is discharged from the plant to distribution. Some water goes to two elevated tanks directly, and some goes directly into the system. There is a relatively complete laboratory at this facility staffed by a graduate chemist.

Raw water, from the Tigris, showed general turbidity of 100-110 ntv [expansion unknown] units, with treated water of 4-5 units. Water is generally chlorinated to 2.5 mgls [expansion unknown] when it leaves the plant. Fecal coliform are normally absent, but range up to 9.2 once or twice a month. Bacteriological work and some chemistry is done daily the team said.

In addition to the central plant, there are 15 small package plant which serve the system. No direct damage was suffered by any of the treatment plants, but there was distribution system damage, primarily at the bridge crossing.

Before the war the plant is designed to treat 8,640 cubic metres of raw water 24 hours per day. There were 4 intake and 5 distribution pumps. A 3-4 month supply of chemicals (alum and gas chlorine) was kept on hand. Electric power was not a significant problem but there was some problem getting spare parts, as most parts had to be obtained from abroad. All 15 package plants were functioning.

But in present condition the plant operates 24 hours a day, at a reduced rate of 5,450 cubic metres a day. All intake and distribution pumps are operable, but pumping with frequent breakdowns. Service has been reduced to eight to ten hours a day and districts are served on a rotating basis.

Engineers report that the chemical stock on hand is now generally a one month supply, often with slow delivery. The plant suffers from frequent surges and variances in power. Spare parts are practically nonexistent, therefore, only nine of the fifteen package plant are functioning.

Reduced plant output is likely to force people to seek alternative sources of water many of which will be contaminated. When the distribution system is served on an intermittent basis, leaks and cross connections suck ground water, sewage, and other contaminated water back into the drinking water, lack of aluminum can hurt the filters and causes increased water turbidity

making adequate chlorination more difficult or impossible. Insufficient levels of chlorine will lead to increased incidence of disease, said the team.

On wastewater collection and treatment, the city of al-Kut has a sewage collection system for the central part of town, but does not have a sewage treatment plant.

During pre-war condition, sewage from the central collection system was pumped by 23 lift stations to the Tigris or Tigris drainage. The remainder of the city has septic tanks or holding tanks. Septage [as received] is hauled outside the city and either used for irrigation of just dumped.

In present condition, there is frequent sewage flooding of the central area due to pump failures, and infrequent power supply. Also, there is now a septage truck shortage causing flooding of home interiors, area roads and open spaces which will undoubtedly cause an increased disease incident. An adequate and continuous supply of power and spare parts is critical to the health of the residents.

Paper Criticizes Iranian Reaction to UN Report

*JN1912092391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT
19 Dec 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH assails Tehran's rulers and their fantasies that they can take advantage of Iraq's current circumstances to implement their dirty game and fulfill their malicious objectives.

In an article published today, the paper notes that the Iranian regime has raised a hue and cry after receiving Perez de Cuellar's cheap and mean report. It started to entertain impossible hopes and illusions and to launch intensive and vicious media campaigns, with help from the Zionist media, to distort the firm, crystal-clear facts about that regime's evil acts, treachery, and aggression.

Hasan Habibi and other top Iranian officials, says the paper, know full well that they ignited the war against

Iraq on 4 September 1980 when they shelled Iraq's cities and villages with heavy artillery. They also know very well, together with the entire world, that the Iranian rulers rejected, throughout the years of the war, all Security Council resolutions calling for ending the conflict and bringing about a just and honorable peace.

The facts will remain obvious and firm, incapable of being distorted or falsified, the paper says. On the other hand, the outdated methods of charlatanism, slander, and demagoguery are futile and useless. The Iranian regime's chronic and long-standing problem, adds the paper, is that it continues to use the same method, logic, and mentality that led it to launch the aggression against Iraq and protract it for eight years.

The paper says that the Iranian regime fully and clearly disclosed its bad nature and aggressive, expansionist policy during the U.S.-imperialist-Zionist aggression against our people and country. It implemented the chapter of betrayal and treason, treacherously stabbing Iraq in the back with its poisonous dagger. Moreover, and judging by its conduct and many acts, this regime continues to play its role as a part of the imperialist-Zionist scheme of aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper says that it is in the interests of Iran and its peoples that the Iranian rulers fully abandon the methods of charlatanism, deception, and political hypocrisy and stop coveting Iraq. If the Iranians are really willing to implement Resolution 598, they should sit at the negotiating table to translate Iraq's 14 August 1990 initiative into a just and comprehensive settlement on the basis of mutual respect, sovereignty, regional safety, and good-neighborliness.

In conclusion, the paper says that engaging in empty media rhetoric and running after Perez de Cuellar's mirage and impossible illusions will be of no use to the Iranian regime, nor will this serve the interests and stability of the peoples of Iran. The Iranian regime should learn from its bitter and costly experience.

Sharon Announces Candidacy for Prime Minister

TA1812194591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon announced a few minutes ago to a meeting of his followers in Tel Aviv that he plans to be a candidate for prime minister on behalf of the Likud in the next elections. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen reports that Sharon sharply attacked the government's policy in the political process, calling the negotiators schlemiels who conduct the peace campaign with self-humiliation. Minister Sharon also said that the Likud must support the proposal for direct election of the prime minister.

Jerusalem Pleased U.S. 'Stayed Out' of Talks

TA1912114791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] There is still no agreement on the venue for the next round of talks between Israel and the Arabs, people in Jerusalem say as the Israeli delegations for the negotiations are expected back. Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports:

Jerusalem has so far refrained from officially summing up the Washington talks, an assessment which will be made only after the prime minister receives a detailed report about the negotiations from the delegation heads. At the same time, political sources in the capital expressed satisfaction over the fact that despite the Arabs' wishes, the United States stayed out of the current round of talks, thereby shattering what Jerusalem calls the illusion nurtured by the Arabs that the direct negotiations are actually being conducted with the United States, not with Israel, and that Washington will take action to twist Jerusalem's arm each time the Arabs do not like Israel's position.

As for the continuation of the talks, Jerusalem is still reluctant to confirm reports that the deliberations will resume in Washington on 7 January. In general, people in the capital admit that the intention is to renew the talks around mid-January, even though there is as yet no agreement on the venue. Israel will continue to insist that the next round of talks be held in the Middle East, but it may yet concede and agree to go back to Washington if the Arabs agree that the round of talks that follows would indeed be held in the Middle East.

'Failure' of Talks Blamed on Palestinian Math

TA1912072291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0505 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Report by political correspondent in Washington Arye Golan]

[Text] Palestinian arithmetic was behind the failure of the peace talks in Washington. They demanded that the Israeli delegation sit opposite a joint delegation composed of a double number of delegates: The Jordanian

delegation would equal the Israeli one in size, and in addition, there would be an equal-size Palestinian representation. Thus, a delegation of, let us say, 14 Israelis would sit opposite a delegation composed of 14 Jordanians and 14 Palestinians. There would be, in fact, two delegations. Israel adamantly rejected this approach.

Israeli sources recalled that on the eve of the Madrid peace conference, there was talk of seven Israelis versus seven Jordanians and Palestinians. We are not trifling with numbers, said the Israelis; the question is whether the Palestinians are a separate body forever and ever, or part of a joint framework.

It has been further learned that at the last moment, Israel made another concession: It waived its demand to have every round of talks open with a general session in the presence of the entire forum comprising the joint Jordanian-Palestinians. Instead, Israel agreed to an opening in the presence of the three delegation heads only, to be followed by two-track negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians. This is in line with Dr. Hanan Ashrawi's proposal. Nevertheless, the Palestinians said they would not accept it unless Israel accepted their own proposal for a double-size joint delegation.

It was over this that the talks failed. Now there remains nothing but to wait for 7 January—probably in Washington again.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 19 December, citing political correspondent Arye Golan, adds: "Israeli sources in Washington said that Israel will consent to holding the next round of bilateral talks in Washington on 7 January, provided the third round is held in the Middle East. The sources believed the Arabs will not reject the proposal outright."]

Price Said To Be Paid for UN Resolution Repeal

TA1812125891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
18 Dec 91 p B1

[Editorial: "The Stain Has Been Removed, But the Bill Will Yet Be Presented"]

[Excerpts] In November 1975 the UN General Assembly denounced Zionism as a form of racism and as racist discrimination. [passage omitted]

"We must pursue our struggle against this resolution from every possible forum accessible to us, and we should never cease to deplore this historical aberration," HA'ARETZ wrote in its editorial on 12 November 1975. However, we had no chance of winning this struggle so long as the Soviet Union manipulated the UN arena with the help of all the non-Christian countries. The United States, the EEC countries, and all the other states that voted against the resolution or abstained were left helpless.

Only after the Soviet Union abandoned the cold war were conditions ripe for initiating a motion that would demand that the UN General Assembly repeal the resolution.

U.S. policymakers heeded Israel's pleas. In his latest address to the opening session of the UN General Assembly, President George Bush announced that his envoy would submit a motion for the repeal of the resolution which tarnished Israel's good name. The U.S. delegation invested great efforts to muster the required majority support, and these efforts met with success. An overwhelming majority endorsed the repeal.

We would congratulate Egypt if it had had the guts to vote with the majority. Nevertheless, we may regard its absence from the vote—as well as that of Morocco, Tunisia, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain—as a positive step. All of them bolted, albeit not very courageously, the first they joined 16 years ago. The same applies to India.

We have reason to be pleased with the results of the vote and to feel special gratitude toward the United States. However, Foreign Minister David Levi was wrong when he told Ambassador Thomas Pickering that "when we work together, there is success." It was not Israel that caused the change in the global balance of power in favor of the United States; Israel is merely benefiting from the U.S. achievement. The U.S. Administration's goodwill notwithstanding, we would not be wrong in saying that, in this context, the wish to make the United Nations rectify the stigma that had anguished Israel was coupled with political considerations.

Lawrence Eagleburger denied any connection between the repeal of the UN resolution and the peace process. However, in the same breath, he said that the decision would undoubtedly help the process. It stands to reason that Washington expects Jerusalem to reward it by evincing a more flexible position.

The stain has been removed, but we would be wrong in believing that we will not be called upon to pay a price for this favor. We will yet realize this, when the Americans put forth "compromise proposals" to the bilateral committees.

Levi Demands UN Act on Release of MIA's

TA1912084691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Report by New York-based correspondent Ya'aqov Eylon]

[Excerpt] Last night, Israel finally abandoned quiet diplomacy in POW and MIA affairs, moving on to overt and explicit pressure on the United Nations in an attempt to achieve as much as possible before Secretary General Perez de Cuellar ends his tenure at the end of this month.

Emerging from his meeting with the UN secretary general in New York last night, Foreign Minister David Levi

addressed reporters, speaking for the first time about the UN commitment to Israel to bring about the release of the MIA's. Israel demands that the United Nations act on this commitment, as the organization's credibility is at stake.

Minister Levi further revealed that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani made a personal promise to the UN secretary general and this promise should be kept, said the foreign minister. This commitment to the United Nations involves Hashemi-Rafsanjani's reputation, he added. Levi mentioned that the secretary general's envoy, Picco, was yesterday in Tehran to collect on that promissory note. [passage omitted]

Moscow Embassy 'Pursues Normal Activities'

TA1912075991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0730 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] In the wake of the reports about the resignation of Soviet President Gorbachev, our correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports from Jerusalem that for the present, Israel does not intend to react to the resignation. It will abstain from doing so as long as the resignation is not officially announced.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has said that the Israeli Embassy in Moscow pursues normal activities, including its main concern—the aliyah of Soviet Jews. The embassy, said the spokesman, will remain amenable to any political entity set up in the place of the USSR.

Army Said 'Not Seeing to' Residents' Security

TA1912054491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira says that the situation in Judea and Samaria is one of lawlessness and that the Israeli Army is not seeing to the security of the residents.

Rabbi Shapira made the comments at a meeting with Jewish settlers. The chief rabbi said it is permissible for the settlers to uproot trees if they serve as a hiding place for terrorists, but he made it clear to the settlers that their actions must not bring them into conflict with the security forces.

Jewish settlers from Samaria are now blocking the main Jerusalem-Nabulus highway near the settlement of Ma'ale Levona and are not permitting Arab vehicles to pass. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says an Israeli Army force is at the site, but it has not intervened. The settlers plan to lift the barrier later today. The settlers told the Arabs that the road was blocked because they [the settlers] are demanding to travel in security on the roads in Judea and Samaria.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0538 GMT on 19 December reports that "the settlers have already opened the road."]

IDF Plans To Take 'Firm Action'

TA1912073691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0700 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] In the wake of the recent settler activities, the IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] has announced that it will take firm action against every illegal act, clear blocked roads, and detain persons creating disturbances. This was reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

The settlers have cleared the protest barricade they placed on the Jerusalem-Nabulus road this morning, causing a serious traffic jam after allowing only Jewish drivers through. The road is open for traffic at present.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Shinuy Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Poraz submitted an urgent motion on the agenda demanding that the authorities stop what he terms a tolerant attitude toward rioting settlers. MK Poraz demands that the prime minister and the defense minister impose law and order and assume a firm stance vis-a-vis the rioters, as it is done in the case of Arab residents.

CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] MK Dedi Zucker demands that the attorney general look into the legality of the settlement rabbis' organizing as an authority on security affairs. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Zucker maintains that the organization is illegal because it aims to steer illegal activities. MK Zucker says that this body of the Rabbis of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza incites, calls for rebellion, and leads activities against the IDF and the Arab residents of the territories and their property.

Riots in Gaza Town After Shooting

TA1912055691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] In the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, an officer was shot and lightly wounded by a masked activist last night.

Ten local residents were injured by Army fire in riots that broke out after the shooting. Mark Weiss reports:

The Israel Army spokesman said the officer was shot and lightly wounded in the leg during a chase after armed masked activists in the Shabura refugee camp in Rafah. One of the masked activists shot the officer with a pistol. The soldier was taken to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital for treatment. After the shooting, a riot broke out and scores of local residents hurled rocks at the soldiers. The soldiers were forced to open fire and 10 local residents were injured. Four needed to remain in hospital for treatment. Following the clashes, soldiers carried out searches in the Shabura camp.

Palestinian sources described the incident as the most serious in the area in over a year. They said soldiers opened fire after local residents intervened to stop troops arresting three masked men who were painting slogans on a wall. According to the Palestinian sources, 30 local residents were injured by Army fire. The injured were evacuated to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus, where one person was listed in critical condition.

In nearby Khan Yunus, a homemade bomb was thrown into a Border Police base. The bomb exploded but no one was injured.

New Pilgrimage Date Reportedly Secured

TA1812135991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Following the intervention of the United States and Egypt, a new date has been set for Israeli Muslims to make the pilgrimage to the holy sites in Saudi Arabia. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that over 1,000 Israeli Muslims will leave for Saudi Arabia at the beginning of January via the Allenby Bridge.

Dr. Alexander Bligh, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, has changed the minimum age of those allowed to go on the pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia from 40 to 35.

French Minister Dumas Arrives 18 Dec*JN1812191691 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 91*

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Amman this evening on a two-day visit to Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Husayn and high-ranking Jordanian officials on the peace process, Europe's role in supporting this process, and bilateral relations.

As for France's position on the peace talks in Washington and the future multilateral talks, Mr. Dumas told our correspondent the following:

[Begin recording] [Dumas, in English] In the recent week we have been following the discussion, and first of all we are very glad that the peace process is taking place. We regret that the things are moving slowly, too slowly, but we support the peace process, and we hope that the next meeting will permit making certain progress.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Sir, about the France's role in the multilateral talks: Of course, the venue has not been agreed upon yet. How do you see France's role in the multilateral talks?

[Dumas, in English] Well, in the multilateral conversation, as you know, we are ready to participate as France first, and as a member of the [European] Community. As you know, we have reinforced our cohesion inside the Community with the Maastricht conclusions, and it is very important that Europe will participate in this conversation, but we would be ready when time has arrived to it, and we hope this time will arrive very soon. [end recording]

He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Jordanian and French ambassadors to Paris and Amman, respectively.

Holds Talks With King Husayn*JN1912064491 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Dec 91*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who is currently visiting Jordan, at Raghadan Palace last night.

The talks between the Jordanian and French sides tackled issues of mutual interest and the situation in the region. The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations. The talks also dealt with the current peace process in Washington. The two sides exchanged views on the course of the process and carried out a comprehensive analysis of the difficulties that have faced it so far. They expressed concern about the success of the peace process.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the adviser to his majesty the king, the foreign minister, the military adviser to his majesty the king, and the Jordanian ambassador to France. On the French side, the meeting

was attended by the French ambassador to Jordan, the official spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry, the assistant secretary general for Near Eastern and North African affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and the two advisers of the French foreign minister.

His Majesty King Husayn bestowed on the guest minister the al-Kawkab Medal, First Class.

King Husayn Presents Award to Journalist al-Hattab*JN1612171591 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1535 GMT 16 Dec 91*

[Text] Amman, 16 Dec (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon journalist and writer Sultan al-Hattab, member of the committee entrusted with the formulation of the National Charter. Al-Hattab presented to his majesty a copy of his new book *In Light of King Husayn's Thought: Readings in the Political Reality and Democratic Experience*.

His majesty praised al-Hattab and his distinctive journalistic effort. He also praised al-Hattab's continuous tracking of the democratic march through his writings and studies.

His Majesty King Husayn bestowed on al-Hattab the Jordanian al-Kawkab Medal, Second Class, in appreciation for his journalistic efforts.

The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

U.S. Bears 'Greatest' Blame for Talks' Breakdown*JN1912092991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
19 Dec 91 pp 1, 16*

[Editorial: "America Is Responsible for the Failure"]

[Text] Thus, the settlement negotiations in Washington have reached a dead end.

It is obvious that Israel, through its maneuvers and prevarications, succeeded in pushing the negotiations with all Arab parties toward this expected failure.

This outcome is not surprising for any Arab or foreign observer. Israel drowned the negotiations in procedural and formal issues and refused to begin to discuss substantive issues.

It has become evident that Israel is unwilling to accept international legitimacy resolutions, and the principle of land for peace. It has also become clear that it wants peace and land together. Moreover, it has become evident that it refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's rights. For this reason, it strongly rejected the two-track negotiations and insisted on one-track negotiations with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

It seems that the lenient U.S. position, and the U.S. Administration's refraining from intervening in the

negotiations to activate them and remove the obstacles Israel has placed, encouraged the Shamir government to insist on its intransigent positions.

The U.S. Administration's role in forcing the United Nations to abrogate the resolution equating Zionism with racism was tantamount to a message of encouragement for Israel to press ahead with its intransigence and paralyze the Washington negotiations.

Thus, we can say that the U.S. Administration bears the greatest share of responsibility for the failure of the negotiations.

The U.S. Administration was duty bound to directly intervene with Israel to urge it to abandon its stubbornness and intransigence, and to give the negotiations a chance for success.

However, the U.S. Administration's compliance with Shamir's desire to not intervene has made its role a marginal one, or almost nonexistent, which led to the failure of the negotiations.

The U.S. Administration disappointed the Arab parties and failed to honor its promises and pledges. It had promised to directly intervene at the appropriate time to activate the peace process and remove obstacles.

It had also promised to be an effective partner in the negotiations. Despite the Arab request for its intervention, however, it did not respond. Rather, it wrenched through a UN resolution abrogating the earlier resolution equating Zionism with racism. Hence, the U.S. Administration sought to please Shamir at the expense of the peace process.

Remains of U.S. Hostage To Be Handed Over
NC1812175491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
 1729 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Fundamentalist sources have told our radio: While talk is going on about conditions and counterconditions for the release of the Hammadi brothers in jail in Germany in exchange for freeing the two German hostages in Lebanon, we wish to announce that during the next 24 hours, at the latest, we will hand over the remains of one of the two U.S. hostages, Buckley or Higgins. We hope that this step will be seen as a gesture of goodwill so that attention will be paid to our prisoners and POW's held in Israeli jails.

Asked how the remains will be handed over, the fundamentalist sources said that the handover might be carried out through an international humanitarian organization. The sources refused to identify the place where the remains will be handed over and noted that UN mediator Giandomenico Picco has been notified of the location.

REUTER has cited pro-Iranian political sources as saying that the family of the two Hammadi brothers imprisoned in Germany on charges of terrorism is refusing to comply with Iranian pressure to secure the release of the two German hostages in Lebanon. The same sources added that they doubt that Picco will focus on this issue during his visit to Tehran.

Diplomatic sources told REUTER that during his visits to Tehran and Damascus, Picco will focus on the place where the Israeli airman Ron Arad is held.

Iranian Foreign Ministry sources have said that Picco, the UN secretary general's personal envoy, has been in Tehran since yesterday.

Columnist Expresses Doubts About Higgins' Death
NC1812185291 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic
 10 Dec 91 pp 10, 16

[Column by 'Ali Hajji: "Elements Arise About the Issue of U.S. Hostages. What If William Higgins Emerges Alive? Surrounding Circumstances and Doubts About His Death."]

[Text] What if William Higgins emerges alive? The question should rather be asked in another way: Did the kidnapped General [as published] William Higgins, whose abduction wreaked catastrophe on the Shiite sect, die? If this is true, why then was his body was not released or why did the agreement concluded by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar not contain any indication about the release of his body since the file of the U.S. hostages kidnapped in Lebanon has been closed in accordance with the famous accord Perez de Cuellar drafted and supervised about three months ago?

AL-DIYAR has learned that there are genuine doubts about Higgins' death and that this issue has not been

fully determined. Many questions revolve around the tape in which Higgins appeared dead with his neck dangling and tied to a short rope as if he has been executed by hanging. The kidnappers, as confirmed by these reports [as published], resorted to this deliberate trick to cause a tremor in the U.S. Administration in response to the shock created by Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd from his home in Jibahit in the south in view of the moral and material importance which Higgins represents to the kidnappers.

According to these reports, the kidnappers seem to have worked on the construction of this picture in a well-studied way. Also they are not so stupid. They knew well the importance of the "precious prey" in their hands and that it was not easy to give it up.

The reports add that, based on past experiences, there is more than one precedence in which the kidnappers in distant stages in the early season of abductions resorted to announcing the execution of their hostages after which these hostages emerged alive. A French hostage, announced executed at the time, emerged sound and healthy after a process of negotiations. Also the Terry Waite case after information was leaked on his death is a vivid example of what we say.

The vague questions that need answers are many. Most prominent of them is: Did Perez de Cuellar discuss Higgins' fate in this agreement? Consequently, why did the kidnappers not raise his issue in this hot file? Why has the U.S. Administration again raised this issue through U.S. President George Bush who demanded to know about [the fate] of the bodies of the two Americans killed in detention, William Higgins and William Buckley? Was this issue meant to be kept separate from previous issues that had been discussed and concluded satisfactorily?

As for the question why Perez de Cuellar did not include Higgins' fate in this agreement, its answer lies with the U.S. Administration which is prurient to achieve any success on this issue to prove its credibility after a series of retreats and setbacks it has suffered, especially after the decline in the popularity of Bush himself in recent opinion polls in the United States.

The kidnapping parties have numerous files on the hostage issue that have not been completely settled. First of these is the fate of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. Israel and the United States are still procrastinating about his release after the kidnappers freed most of the hostages they had held.

The final card the kidnappers are still holding is a very important one. It is that of William Higgins, whose fate is unknown. If one of the parties to the Perez de Cuellar agreement does not fulfill his commitment, especially Israel and the U.S. Administration, by freeing Shaykh 'Ubayd, those concerned are supposed to produce this "upare card" to put it forth strongly and from a position of strength, especially because information later revealed that Colonel Higgins, who worked with the observer

team of the UN forces in the south and was kidnapped four years ago, was a member of the team that worked with former U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

Lastly, has the hostage file really been closed? What is clear until now and as the U.S. President himself answered the question a few days ago, the matter has not been closed yet. There are important aspects to the issue still outstanding, including the issue of the two hostages said to have been killed in detention, Buckley and Higgins. Also, the provision agreed upon with Perez de Cuellar stipulating that the kidnappers will not be tracked down, was recently denied by Bush who did not rule out that the U.S. judiciary may prosecute the U.S. hostage takers anywhere, which is in breach of the agreement which some call a "test of intentions"

The big question which must be asked at the end of this talk is what is the price for resolving the riddle of Higgins and his companion Buckley, whether they are dead or alive?

The present answer is that there is no decisive reply about this issue which will come into the limelight.

Buwayz Notes 'Negative' Israeli Approach in Talks
NC1812185991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has remarked that the substance of the two sessions of talks held in Washington yesterday took a negative turn and set back the progress that had been achieved earlier. Buwayz added that the recent talks showed a retraction of former Israeli positions which seemed positive at the start of the negotiations. He noted that the reason might be that an Israeli wish to obstruct the talks after Israel succeeded in repealing the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism and said that the Israelis are now linking the talks with regional considerations that are not directly connected with the negotiations.

[Begin Buwayz recording] The negative attitude shown yesterday certainly shows a new approach that involves an attempt to cloud the withdrawal principle and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, an attempt to transfer the venue of the talks, or evade the presence of cosponsors of the peace conference. The substance of yesterday's talks was negative and set back earlier progress. [end recording]

Shiite Council Objects to UNIFIL Withdrawal
NC1812172191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1630 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The Higher Shiite Islamic Council held a regular meeting today under the chairmanship of its deputy chairman Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din. The council discussed the security, political, and military

situation in the south and al-Biq'a in light of the Israeli aggression. The council also discussed the current political situation.

A statement issued after the meeting expressed the council's strong rejection of any partial withdrawal by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). It demanded the expansion of the UNIFIL area of deployment and requested the UNIFIL to continue to do their task until UN Security Council Resolution 425 is implemented. The council reminded the international community and the UN Security Council of the importance of implementing Resolution 425.

The Shiite council emphasized the importance of involving the Lebanese Army and ensuring its entry into the UNIFIL area of operation so that it can shoulder its national responsibilities. It rejected the termination of UNIFIL mission in exchange for the Lebanese Army deployment.

The council called on the government to pay attention to the issues which constitute a burden for citizens, particularly the issue of the displaced.

Hizballah on Repeal of UN Zionism Resolution
NC1812092791 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement commenting on the UN General Assembly (UNGA) decision to revoke its earlier resolution equating Zionism with racism. The statement stresses that repealing Resolution No. 3379 equating Zionism with racism at this critical stage, during which negotiations on Palestine, its future, and destiny are under way, gives an early indicator of the kind of results that U.S. policies will lead to, both with respect to the new world order and the eventual outcome of the treacherous talks in Madrid and Washington.

The statement adds that this incident and its political and intellectual implications abound with signs of the deep disorder in the international arena as a result of the United States tampering with people's destiny, its disregard for and exploitation of values and political and international standards to suit U.S. interests, and its hegemony over the United Nations. The statement says: The UNGA resolution, which was passed at the suggestion of the U.S. satan, portends more backing and support for the Zionist entity, which will be furnished with all means of moral, political, and material strength by the Americans, their allies, and the countries that fell victim to U.S. unilateral deeds, tyranny, and domination of international policies.

The statement adds: While this further exposes the myth of those who have illusions about U.S. neutrality and its capacity to act as a mediator to resolve the so-called Middle East crisis, it also shows that Arabs account for little in U.S. calculations and that the United States and Israel share almost the same background in terms of policies and objectives. This resolution also confirms

that the Palestinian people's legitimate rights have absolutely no place at the negotiating table and that the international community, which is dominated by the United States, will not condemn Zionist oppression, which is a daily practice against our Palestinian brothers in the occupied territories.

The statement adds: The strange thing is that because of such U.S. positions, because of Washington's hegemony over international organizations, and because of the absence of a balance of power between Arab regimes and the Zionist entity, the Arab negotiators in Washington do not realize that the intention is to give Israel everything, including land, peace, and international support, and not give Arabs anything.

The statement concludes by saying that the Arabs must walk out of these farcical negotiations, because they have had enough of humiliation and subservience to U.S. will and Israeli intransigence. Now they must submit to the will and aspirations of their people, who reject the mere presence of the Zionist entity, much less reconciliation with it.

Hizballah Says Bush 'Terrorist Number One'

NC1812151291 Beirut AL-AHD in Arabic
13 Dec 91 p 3

["Statement" issued by Hizballah in response to U.S. President George Bush's remark that "it is about time to eradicate all forms of terrorism in the Middle East and the world"]

[Text] O oppressed people, O sons of our Islamic nation. As usual, the U.S. Administration was not ashamed of

itself when President Bush allowed himself to speak about the eradication of terrorism in the region and the world in an attempt to mislead world opinion and distort all historical facts replete with black pages which tell of the ugliest and most barbaric massacres against the all of mankind from one end of the world to the other—in Hiroshima, Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea, Iran, Iraq, and elsewhere in the great Islamic world. In addition, the U.S. Administration has blatantly and openly given support for the cancerous gland "Israel," which has killed and displaced thousands, if not millions, of Muslim Palestinians and Arabs from their homelands and which has robbed them of their wealth and their economic and political muscle.

The usurping entity is continuing its occupation and control of our people in Lebanon and is pouring every day U.S. bombs and rockets on the heads of our people in the south and western al-Biq'a. This is an absolute proof of the U.S. terrorist mentality and the criminal tool it is using to consolidate its hegemony of our people. The United States has provided Israel with all the political and military means to maintain its safety and superiority.

It is no longer a secret that the U.S. Administration has used the veto right in the so-called UN Security Council to play with the fate of nations and peoples. It has spread fear, terror, and destruction in most areas of the world and has stained its hands and flags with the blood of the weak and oppressed people. The U.S. Administration and its President, who is terrorist number one, have no right to speak about terrorism. They must instead await the just punishment which will be visited upon them by the people of the region and the world, God willing.

Al-Asad Receives DPRK Minister 18 Dec

JN1812181691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Chong Song-nam, North Korean minister of external economic affairs, and his accompanying delegation at 1315 today.

Dr. Sabah Baqaji, minister of state for planning affairs, and Paek Mun-song, North Korea's ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

The North Korean minister conveyed President Kim Il-sung's greetings to President al-Asad, who asked the minister to convey his greetings to President Kim Il-sung and the friendly people of North Korea.

Talks dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation.

Press Terms Peace Talks Israeli 'Time-Wasting'

JN1912073891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Washington Between Maneuvering and the Bottleneck," AL-BATH today editorializes on Israel's continued obstacles to the Middle East peace process. AL-BATH assesses what has happened as time-wasting on the part of Israel, which has preoccupied all parties with formalities and peripheral matters.

AL-BATH says: The second phase of talks has failed to tackle the task with which the conference had been entrusted; that is, finding a settlement based on trading the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Dealing with the U.S. role in the peace process, AL-BATH calls on the U.S. Administration not to go back on its pledges and the principles raised by U.S. President George Bush in his initiative with regard to the situation in the Middle East. AL-BATH says that the Arabs justly hope that the United States would remove the brakes that Israel places on the wheels of the conference, and that it would not be dragged into useless and endless maneuvers.

AL-BATH says the road to peace is not easy, especially in view of the nature of the Israeli rulers, who will make this road difficult. AL-BATH affirms that our intrinsic power is the basis. It says: We in Syria want peace. When we go to the conference, we do so because we truly want peace. However, we will not relinquish our territory and rights, and there is no power on earth that can force our people to accept what is unacceptable to them or to dictate its will on the Syrian people's position, territory and rights. This is the Syrian people's position, which has been expressed by President Hafiz al-Asad in the reflection message, in which he said: Whoever thinks

or believes that we could relinquish an iota of our soil is under an illusion. The Syrian people cannot accept or do such a thing.

Repeal of UN Resolution 'Harmful Precedent'

JN1812091291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Dec 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel Will Continue To Be Racist Until It Proves Otherwise," AL-BATH says: It is perhaps ironic that the repeal of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism comes while the Zionist enemy, pursuant to racist written and unwritten laws, is providing further evidence of its racial discrimination against our kinfolk in the occupied territories. As the Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed, the revocation of the resolution did not, and will not, negate the fact that the Zionist entity has been implementing racist laws since its creation. In fact, these laws and legislations have increased since 1975, when the world adopted the resolution equating Zionism with racism.

The paper adds: Now that the resolution has been abolished in these particular circumstances, and while we stress that it does not nullify racial discrimination in the occupied territories, we can say that the step will allow the Israeli negotiator, who claims concern for peace, further intransigence against the most fundamental Palestinian rights. The Palestinian people have been staging a stone-throwing uprising against all forms of coercion and injustice practiced by their executioners. The coercion, oppression, terrorism, and real war to which the Palestinian people are being subjected are nothing but racial discrimination rarely seen in the civilized world. The almost daily Zionist crimes against defenseless civilians are ample proof.

AL-BATH concludes: The repeal of the resolution will not remove the label of racial discrimination on Israel as long as it continues its terrorist practices against our kinfolk in the occupied territories. This label can be removed only through Israel's recognition of international laws and UN conventions and norms, which protect and safeguard human rights.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says the UN General Assembly's repeal of its resolution considering Zionism a form of racism is a harmful precedent in the history of the United Nations, especially at this stage, when the international organization is working to entrench world legitimacy and stressing the need to implement international resolutions and respect for the UN Charter and basic conventions, especially the declaration of human rights. Israel has always thrown this declaration overboard, especially the right to self-determination. It is doing the impossible to prevent the Palestinian people from exercising this right, and, through its bloody oppression, it is daily violating the other rights provided for in the declaration.

Afghanistan**Tripartite Peace Talks Set for 21-22 Dec**

BK1812145091 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
18 Dec 91 p 12

[By Shakil Sheikh]

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 17—Two-day tripartite talks to find out a peaceful solution to Afghan issue will be held here from Dec 21 between Russian Federation, Pakistani authorities and Afghan Mojahedin leaders, when Russian Vice President Mr Aleksandr Rutskoy reaches Pakistan on Thursday next.

The 4-day visit of the Russian Vice President will start from Dec 19, with his meetings with Pakistani and Afghan Mojahedin leaders, based in Pakistan for resolving Afghan problem.

Mr Rutskoy during his visit to Pakistan is expected to announce the names of Russian representatives on the Joint Commission already agreed between the Mojahedin and Soviet authorities. Afghan Mojahedin have already named their representatives on the Joint Commission which is supposed to discuss political issues besides the exchange of POWs.

Foreign Office sources told The Muslim, "there is a chance of holding meetings in which all the three sides will discuss the issue." They, however, said that it would all depend on the visiting Russian VP [vice president] and the Afghan Mojahedin to sit along with Pakistan for striking a resolution on the peaceful settlement of the 12-year-old Afghan issue.

Mr Rutskoy would proceed to Kabul on Dec 22 where he will hold talks with Kabul regime to help set up an interim Islamic government there.

However, Mr Rutskoy has already said that the biggest question before his government was the release of 300 Soviet POWs from Mojahedin captivity.

He is expected to hold talks with Afghan Mojahedin leaders based in Peshawar for resolving some crucial matters before flying to Kabul.

Meanwhile Secretary General Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki told The Muslim that Pakistan is not in a hurry to recognise the five remaining Central Asian Muslim States, which have declared independence from the Former Soviet Union (FSU).

He said Pakistan is watching the developments of the breakaway in the Soviet Union, and particularly the outcome of the talks with Russian Vice President.

"Since these Islamic States—Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenia—have

announced joining the Russian-sponsored Commonwealth, therefore it is difficult for Pakistan at the moment to recognise these States by following Turkey," said the Secretary General.

When asked that Pakistan recognised Azerbaijan following Turkey, Mr Zaki said Pakistan did not follow Turkey, but it recognised Azerbaijan after the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] granted it full membership on the Islamic body last week.

He also said that report of State Minister for Economic Affairs, Asif Ahmed Ali, who recently returned after visiting Muslim States and Moscow, would be considered in depth before taking a decision to recognise the remaining five Central Asian Muslim States.

Farah Governor Goes Over to Mojahedin

LD1612122591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
16 Dec 91

[Text] The governor of Anar Darreh in Afghanistan's Farah Province has joined the Muslim Mojahedin along with members of his family. According to an IRNA report citing informed sources, Nur Mohammad Nurzahi arrived in the Gazik region of Birjand [Iran] three days ago accompanied by a number of Mojahedin.

India**Kashmir Militants Seek Independent Republic**

BK1812152191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT
18 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 18 (AFP)—Seven militant parties allied in a secessionist movement to prise Kashmir from India vowed Wednesday to intensify their fight for a republic devoid of Indian or Pakistani domination.

They called for the removal of the 1948 border dividing the state between neighbours India and Pakistan and demanded the merger of northern Gilgit and Baltistan, administered by Islamabad, into a "re-united Kashmir state."

The parties recently adopted a joint declaration at Lahore urging Kashmiris to join the freedom movement.

Signatories to the Lahore Declaration included Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Jammu Kashmir National Liberation Front (JKNLF), Jammu Kashmir Plebiscite Front (JKPF), Kashmir Freedom Movement (KFM), Tehreek Islami Jamhoriya Kashmir, Al-Mujahideen Fil-Islam and Qaumi Tehreek Azadi Kashmir.

Releasing the text to reporters here Amanullah Khan, whose JKLF is one of more militant groups spearheading the bloody separatist movement for more than two years, said Kashmir wanted a republic free from Indian domination.

Khan is not supported by Islamabad which insists on implementation of a 1948 U.N. resolution on a plebiscite binding the Kashmiris either to accede to India or Pakistan.

India and Pakistan have twice fought for the control of Kashmir. New Delhi accuses Islamabad of fanning the secessionist movement in the predominantly Muslim state.

Pakistan denies giving military help, but vows to continue giving political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri struggle.

The Lahore declaration said "the Kashmir issue is not a dispute between India and Pakistan over the territory's proprietorship."

The right of self determination of a nation "cannot be limited, conditioned or circumscribed," it said.

Limiting Kashmir's right to self-determination was tantamount to depriving them of that right, it said.

It said any solution not based on Kashmiris' unfettered right of self determination would not be acceptable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir state, or of any constitutional or moral value.

It called upon the Islamabad-controlled government of Azad (free) Kashmir "to extend maximum possible material and moral support to the freedom fighters."

Stressing that Gilgit and Baltistan states, bordering China, were "integral parts of Kashmir," the declaration demanded transfer of the region's control to the Azad Kashmir government.

The parties believe that "the best, most equitable and practicable solution of Kashmir issue is to reunite the forcibly divided Jammu-Kashmir state and make it a fully independent country whose geographical borders should be the same as existed before India and Pakistan's independence in August 1947."

The parties vowed to resist any move to divide the state, to victimise the supporters of independence ideology, to weaken or change the nature of on-going armed struggle in the Indian-held Kashmir, or to crush any of the signatory organisations.

It appealed for international organisations, human right bodies and the world media "to raise the strongest possible voice against the most inhuman actions of the Indian forces in Kashmir."

The parties decided to form a coordination committee to take follow up measures in implementing the declaration.

Troops Posted on Rajasthan-Punjab-Pakistan Border

BK1912035091 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh Government has sought more central forces to combat terrorist activities in the Terai region of the state. The chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, said in Agra that while his government had asked for 40 companies of central forces, only 20 companies have been dispatched by the center. He said the state government has raised a special force of two battalions at a cost of 30 crore rupees to contain militancy. Mr. Kalyan Singh urged the center to bear 50 percent of this cost.

In Rajasthan, six companies of the border security force have been deployed in Sri Ganganagar District along the Punjab and Pakistan border to prevent infiltration of militants. The state home minister, Mr. Digvijay Singh, said in Jaipur that the state police has also increased its surveillance on the border with Pakistan.

Assam Rebels Offer To Negotiate With Government

BK1812161391 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The United Liberation Front of Assam [ULFA] has for the first time expressed its desire for negotiations with the government for a peaceful solution of the Assam problem. A statement in this regard was released in Guwahati today by the organization's publicity secretary. The move comes a day after the unilateral declaration by the ULFA chairman of cessation of militant activities and two days after all the six remaining hostages were released.

Bangladesh, Burma Support for Insurgents Protested

BK1812092091 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0730 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The government has taken up with Bangladesh and Myanmar matters regarding support to insurgents in the northeastern region. The minister of state for home affairs, Mr. M.M. Jacob, told the Rajya Sabha during question hour that the central and state agencies in the area have been alerted to deal with insurgency.

The minister said fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border has been undertaken. He said the terrain is such that full fencing of border may not be possible.

Replying to a question, he said if the states in the northeastern region ask for sophisticated weapons, the center will examine it.

Commentary Hails Outcome of Li Peng Visit

BK1712113991 Delhi All India Radio General
Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Dec 91

[N.K. Ray commentary: "Milestone in Indo-China Relations"]

[Text] The six-day official visit of Chinese Premier Li Peng which ended on Monday [16 December] would not only go down as a major milestone in ancient Sino-Indian relations but will also be construed a constructive step forward in the evolution of a new international economic and political order. The joint communique talks of reestablishment of consulates general in Shanghai and Bombay, resumption of border trade, and an understanding on cooperation in peaceful applications of outer space sciences and technology. Both the countries were eager to develop friendly, good-neighborly, and mutually beneficial relations on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence as they believed that cooperation between India and China is in the fundamental and long-term interests of the people of both the countries and is conducive to peace and stability in Asia and the world.

The communique also highlights the cooperation of the two countries in the field of trade, culture, science, and technology. The two countries have rightly stressed the need for joint efforts for ensuring a dynamic increase and diversification of exchange in the economic field and in the fields of health, education, energy, and agriculture. The agreement on holding a festival of India in China and a festival of China in India would go a long way in developing further understanding and cementing relations between the peoples of the two most populous countries. Though the question of border agreement still remains unsolved, the two countries have reaffirmed their faith in further efforts to seek a settlement through friendly consultations. The joint working group, which is already working in this direction, would hold its next meeting in early 1992. Meanwhile, the two sides have to maintain peace and tranquillity in area along line of actual control.

On international issues, the perception of both the countries were identical. The Chinese side expressed their support for efforts by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation for closer cooperation amongst its member states. Agreement on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict signed at the Paris conference on 23 October 1991 (7a having) not only a welcome but also support of the two countries. Similarly, on Afghanistan issue, the two sides stressed the importance of an early political settlement. Both sides were supportive of the UN secretary general's statement on the Afghan issue.

The communique also highlights the belief of the two countries that the international community should join efforts for the establishment of a new international political and economic order based on mutual respect and sovereignty, territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, together with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. In governing the international order, the joint communique emphasizes that every country being a member of the international community must participate in the decisionmaking and settlement of international affairs. Both India and China have desired

completion of current processes of disarmament, ultimately leading to complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. Efforts to arrest the growing economic gap between the North and South also highlight identical approach of both India and China for the benefit of all the members of the world community.

Apart from respect to the principles of the UN Charter and the relevant international human rights, the communique rightly emphasizes that for the vast number of developing countries the right to subsistence and development is a basic human right. The Indian prime minister and the president also agreed to the invitation of a return visit to China in near future. The agreed visit of the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party to India and the invitation of the Indian prime minister would further consolidate the relations between the two countries.

Arrested Tibetans Released; Police Actions Denied

BK1712132891 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] The Supreme Court today said it will order a judicial probe into allegations of molestation of Tibetan girls by the Delhi Police if they fail to order a proper inquiry into the incident by Friday. Resuming the hearing of a petition filed by the Janata Dal leader, Mr. George Fernandes, alleging harassment of the Tibetans, a two-judge bench of the court castigated the Delhi Police for arbitrarily arresting Tibetans in the capital during the visit of the Chinese premier, Mr. Li Peng.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, informed the Lok Sabha today that all Tibetans arrested by the Delhi Police have been released in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court. Making a statement, he also said there was no complaint of police misbehavior with the Tibetan girl demonstrators near the Chinese Embassy on Sunday in the capital.

Import Curb To Be Relaxed After Inflation Falls

BK1812040291 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has asserted that the economic policies of the government are not dictated by the IMF. Intervening in the Lok Sabha on a discussion on the economic situation, he said these policies were evolved after detailed discussions in parliament and other forums.

Replying to a discussion in the Rajya Sabha on the management of the economic crisis, Dr. Manmohan Singh said the government will relax the import and credit restrictions only after bringing down the inflation rate. He said if the momentum generated by the economic reforms continues, inflation will be brought down to 9 percent as planned.

Trade Deficit Decreases Past 6 Months

*BK1712100691 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 91*

[Text] The commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, has said that the trade deficit has been brought down to \$1 billion in the first six months as compared to \$2.4 billion during the corresponding period last year. The minister said in the Rajya Sabha that an export growth rate of 4.9 percent in dollar terms was achieved during the first quarter and 7.03 percent in the second quarter of the current financial year. He also disclosed that payments of arrears of cash compensatory support amounting to 350 crore rupees will enable the exporters [as heard] within six weeks. He admitted that exports in the rupee payment areas fell due to the developments in the Soviet Union.

Iran

President Offers To Recognize Russia, Republics

*LD1912115491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
19 Dec 91*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received RSFSR vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy, who is visiting our country at the head of a delegation. Mr. Rutskoy, referring to his country's new situation, expressed Russia's interest in expanding economic and political relations. He pointed to the Afghanistan problem, and called for steps to be taken jointly by both countries for a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan problem. Announcing that Mr. Yeltsin [RSFSR president] would like to visit Iran before he travels to other Asian countries, he requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to assist in releasing Russian POW's in Afghanistan, and to hasten recognition of his country. Mr. Rutskoy also declared that his country is prepared to continue previous agreements signed between Iran and the Soviet Union.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We used to act through the coordination of the Soviet central government with regard to our relations with Soviet republics. Now that you have all decided that each republic should conduct its relations with other countries separately, we welcome this, and are ready to recognize Russia and other independent republics. The RSFSR will be one of the major countries of this region, and we also hope that previous agreements will be observed. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We think that we could cooperate actively and appropriately with all neighbor countries of the Caspian Sea.

The president, in conclusion, while welcoming Mr. Yeltsin's desire to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: We hope that this will take place as soon as possible so that cooperation programs may be reviewed.

Joint cooperation in the field of oil and gas exports was also discussed at the meeting.

The Friday prayer leader of Moscow then reported on the situation facing Muslims in Russia, and called for ever extensive links between Muslims of both countries.

Rutskoy Proposes Prisoner Release Plan

*NC1912072791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT
19 Dec 91*

[Text] Several officials of Afghanistan's Islamic Unity Party met and conferred with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who has come to Tehran. During this meeting the implementation of the Moscow pact, the cessation of Soviet support and arms assistance to Kabul, the release of prisoners, and the formation of an Islamic transitional government in Afghanistan were discussed.

An Islamic Unity Party source said at the end of the meeting that Rutskoy stated that in exchange for the release of each Soviet soldier, 30 Afghan mojahedin prisoners held in Kabul prisons will be released.

Rutskoy, Velayati View Relations

*LD1912114591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
19 Dec 91*

[Text] Russian Vice President Rutskoy and Foreign Minister Velayati today explored ways to expand bilateral cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Republic, as well as regional and international cooperation. The Russian vice president first explained the current situation in his country, as well as the quality of future relations among the republics. He then gave details on the 21 December meeting of the 10 republics in Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, which is to survey the council for cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Referring to common interests between Russia and the Islamic Republic of Iran and their neighborliness, via the Caspian Sea, he emphasized the need to strengthen political, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries, and said that his country is ready to expand these relations as far as possible. Continuing his remarks, the Russian vice president said: Tehran, as the starting point of our regional visit, is an indication of how we view regional issues and the special importance we attach to the political and regional position the Islamic Republic of Iran commands. He added: Your recent trip to Moscow, and our visit to Tehran within such a short space of time, is yet another indication of such importance. In principle, we believe that our neighborliness requires more frequent contacts and cooperation between us.

In reply, Mr. Velayati said: As a neighbor of some of these republics, we will carefully follow the Alma-Ata meeting. We respect what the peoples of those republics choose and want. He stressed: We like to see that these developments in these places, which are our neighbors, take place peacefully and under conditions of stability and tranquillity. Mr.

Velayati added: We welcome the quiet transfer from one stage to another in these countries.

Also discussed at the meeting was the establishment of a joint economic commission between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Republic. It was agreed that the preliminaries for forming such a commission should begin soon. The two also discussed and exchanged views on Afghanistan and regional cooperation. The Russian vice president again supported a peaceful settlement to the Afghanistan problem, as well as the establishment of an Islamic government in that country.

The Russian vice president then presented the embassy and the present ambassador of the USSR in Tehran as those responsible for management of affairs of the Russian Republic in Tehran. Reciprocally, management of the affairs between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Republic was entrusted to the existing embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow.

Cabinet Approves Consulates in Soviet Republics

LD1812211791 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Dec 91*

[Excerpts] The cabinet held a session on Wednesday afternoon. [passage omitted]

The cabinet also approved the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran's consulate offices in Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

Soviet Republics' Right To Favor Iran Noted

LD1812130191 *Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 18 Dec 91*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—A morning daily here Wednesday commented on the concern expressed by the Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti over inclination of the Soviet Asian republics towards Islamic Iran.

"It is the indisputable right of the Soviet Asian republics to choose their style of living and the type of government based on their taste and cultural tendencies," wrote ABRAR.

Therefore, if those republics have chosen to incline towards Iran it is obviously due to the attraction the Islamic ideology offers, it noted.

"The fact that such a choice has become a source of concern for the Italian premier is an indication of the ability of Islamic ideology to administer Muslim society on the basis of socio-political patterns independent of the West," commented ABRAR.

In fact, the main source of concern for Andreotti, it said, "is the formation of an independent Islamic pole within the international community, capable of running its own affairs by relying on its own potentials."

The West, pointed out the article, could hardly stand the experience of the Islamic revolution in Iran and it took time for it to be ultimately convinced of that reality.

The establishment of an Islamic ideology in Iran as a ruling system dealt a "fatal blow" to the West since it proved the futility of the idea that only Western models could run the society, it added.

The Islamic ideology also brought into focus an independent model far removed from [word indistinct] and Marxist ideologies, said ABRAR.

Therefore, it noted, Westerners were more concerned about this new independent pattern and could hardly stand another example of its kind.

"However, Westerners should accept the fact that Muslims make their own selections according to their belief and tendencies, and it is advisable that the Italian prime minister would better make a review over his policies rather than being concerned about the current trend," the daily concluded.

Daily Views Future Afghan 'Leadership Council'

NC1512130791 *Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Dec 91 p 14*

[Hashem Lowlanji commentary: "In the Margin of the Formation of the Leadership Council in Afghanistan"]

[Excerpts] Murmurings of another leadership council being established are circulating on the eve of the interim government's collapse, and it appears that some Afghan mujahedin group leaders have agreed on Afghanistan's permanent leadership under a so-called Leadership Council.

While such a council is not unprecedented in Peshawar, the world has witnessed various changes in the stances of those who profess to be Afghan mujahedin leaders; the creation of a union, return to coalition; coalition to interim government; and from interim government to dissent and separation. This time they have come to the revolution table with an even greater appetite. [passage omitted]

It is time to safeguard the Islamic Republic of Iran and its protection of the aspirations of Afghanistan's martyrs. These realities may be pointed out: When the Muslim people of Afghanistan's determination and faith helped free shackled nations, why is this nation homeless and under constant missile fire?

The Muslims of Chechen-Ingush gained independence from the Soviet Union in one swift stroke. The Muslim-inhabited Central Asian republics convened elections on the eve of the Soviet Union's collapse, sealing their national sovereignty and preempting political chaos and disarray.

Contrary to world expectations, the Afghanistan issue remains on the list of unsolved international problems; not due to the absence of leadership but to political leaders' weakness, bringing the nation face to face with problems.

Everyone knows that the chaos stems from numerous, uncoordinated, and non-elected leaders' personal desires. While there is no nationally-elected, acceptable leader, imposed accords and unrealistic leaderships cannot solve Afghanistan's problems. Afghanistan's heroic and combatant people can be expected to remain patient and strong but it will be a mistake to expect them to remain indifferent about deciding their destiny. The Afghan nation knows its international friends and foes, and the struggles and performance of its Sunni and Shiite mojahedin leaders.

The people are silent and perplexed but this is probably the lull before the storm. Playing with the people's fate and being indifferent to the will of the nation will cause its patience to run out. How can a leadership council be set up without consulting with the Shiite and Sunni experts and without any national referendum? Does this not blatantly ridicule the will and determination of the people?

Who does not know that candidates and elections are the prerequisites of a leadership council? The nation and prominent clerics of seminaries, not foreign powers, should elect a leadership council. The Islamic countries, especially Afghanistan's Muslim neighbors, are sources of hope, but this does not mean that they will interfere with the guardians in electing Afghan leaders. It is totally intolerable for any foreign country to intervene. Further, the Afghan nation's sensitivity toward an appointed leader is understandable.

Pondering the issue, the fate of the interim government will serve as a lesson, and this bitter experience, like a heaven-sent stone striking the mirror of desires, will be unforgettable and should not be repeated.

Concluding, Afghanistan's political leaders should be told: If you genuinely wish to serve this tyrannized nation, for God's sake, do not be selfish. Stop forging personal accords and bartering away the blood of the martyrs and let the people determine their own destiny. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Disclose Security Accord With Sudan

PM1812085891 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 15 Dec 91 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed report: "SAWT AL-KUWAYT Reveals Secret Provisions of Iranian-Sudanese Military and Security Agreement"]

[Text] London, Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Informed Iranian sources have disclosed secret information giving details of the military and security agreement to be signed by Iran and Sudan during Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's current visit to Khartoum. According to these sources, the military and security agreement includes the following provisions:

1. Iran will supply Sudan with about 2 million tons of oil annually free of charge to meet the Sudanese Army's needs until the problem of the South is over.

2. Iran will finance a \$260 million Sudan-PRC arms deal under which Khartoum will receive 18 Shenyang F-7 and F-8 fighter planes, 140 T-54 and T-59 tanks and 20 T-70 tanks, 270 military trucks and armored vehicles, a number of multiple rocket launchers, and medium range guns.

3. Iran will send a group of military experts to Khartoum to help the Sudanese forces in the fields of scientific training and defense industries. It agrees to admit a number of Sudanese officers to Iranian academies, especially the Air Force Academy attached to the Revolutionary Guard where modern training takes place under the supervision of Chinese and North Korean advisers.

4. A joint security committee will be formed by the two countries to monitor implementation of the military and security agreement and to fully supervise all efforts to strengthen ties in that connection.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned from reliable Iranian sources that Iran will help Sudan build a radio and television station to broadcast programs to neighboring states, that it will also help it in other fields such as the construction of roads, mosques, and Islamic centers and provide what is necessary to help Khartoum fully implement the Islamic shari'a.

According to the Iranian sources, the talks on this agreement began a long time ago and Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Sudanese Salvation Revolution Command Council, visited Tehran several times recently for that purpose and held military and political talks with senior Iranian officials.

The same sources expect some difficulties to be encountered in the implementation of the agreement, particularly since there is a strong Iranian tendency opposed to any agreement with 'Umar al-Bashir because of the mounting opposition to him at home and his continuing isolation abroad.

The sources add that, if signed, the agreement would destroy any hope of restoring Iranian-Egyptian relations and could adversely affect Iran's relations with other states in the region, including the Gulf states.

Khamene'i Congratulates Nation on UN Declaration

LD1812145291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Excerpt] In a message today His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, replied to congratulatory cables and messages which officials of the country as well as people from all walks of life sent to him on the occasion of the official admission by the United Nations that the victimized and brave Iranian nation was right in eight years of sacred defense. He congratulated the proud Iranian nation on this great political victory that the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved on the international scene. [passage omitted]

Daily Prints UN Decision on Zionism Resolution
LD1812203391 Tehran IRNA in English 1237 GMT
 18 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—An English daily today questioned Monday's vote by the United Nations General Assembly overturning, for the first time in the history of the world body, the 1975 resolution declaring Zionism as a form of racism, and said that it would leave Israel no excuse than to cooperate.

TEHRAN TIMES said that the decision leads one to believe that "either the earlier motion was a mistake or that Zionism has somehow changed and repented its past policies. Yet neither can be the case, as the regime occupying Palestine has become even more outrageous and belligerent in pursuit of its false dream."

It regretted for the open partiality shown by those members of the United Nations who voted for the revocation and now have to live with the "deceit on their consciences."

The paper was harsh on those spineless Arab states which instead of opposing the move, cowardly abstained from casting their votes.

"The consequence has been to transfer the symbolic stain cast on Israel to the U.N. General Assembly itself and one wonders where it will lead," added the daily.

"Could it be that the next action of the Security Council will be to squash all its resolutions against the Zionist regime to prove that the world organization...is totally devoid of any scruples? Additionally does it mean that international conventions will have to be rewritten to exclude any necessity for Israel to comply and so as to prevent future chastisements on its flagrant violations?"

The paper dismissed the idea as far fetched, that the Zionists, now no longer considered racist by the U.N., would withdraw from Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, in compliance with Security Council resolutions.

"Given the current status of deceit ruling in the world, such an eventuality is hardly likely. The first signs from the White House...are not encouraging in relation to the latest Zionist plan to take over Muslim houses in East Jerusalem," it concluded.

Iraq Returns Body of Former Oil Minister
LD1812191191 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT
 18 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—The body of the former Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan arrived at the Mehrabad Airport from the western town of Bakhtaran today. President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and a group of other senior officials were present at the airport ceremony.

A funeral procession for the late minister will be held here after the Friday prayer ceremony at Tehran University.

Tondguyan was taken captive by Iraqi troops on the Mahshahr-Abadan road in the south while inspecting southern oil installations 11 years ago, and was tortured to death by the Iraqi troops later on.

His body was identified by his wife who had gone to Iraq earlier, and was handed over to Iranian officials at the western border on Tuesday.

Leader's Representative on Universities, Seminaries
LD1912101591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT
 16 Dec 91

[Text] The central office of the leader's representatives at universities issued a statement on the occasion of the "Unity between Seminary and University," anniversary, declaring an unavoidable necessity today when the bottlenecks facing the executive authorities of the Islamic government have been revealed. The statement considers that the survival of the revolution and the fulfillment of its objectives depend on unity between seminaries and the universities, and it is a great Islamic and revolutionary duty to work for the successful achievement of this unity. The statement also emphasized that the pessimism and skepticism of academics toward seminarians is as catastrophic as the attitude of the seminarians, who have no confidence in academics, and doubt their commitment. The statement emphasizes that the reform of the university and seminary system is a necessity for both institutions, and is the most practical step toward unity between seminaries and universities.

Pakistan

President Addresses Joint Session of Parliament

Opposition To Boycott Speech

BK1912034691 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] In Pakistan, the opposition parties are to boycott President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's address to the joint session of Parliament today. Announcing this after a marathon meeting of the parties' conference in Islamabad late last night, the convener, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, said the boycott is in protest against the biased attitude of the president.

Meanwhile, reports say some members of the ruling Muslim League have demanded that the Sindh government be dismissed and governor's rule be imposed because of the deteriorating law and order situation in that province. Stormy scenes reportedly took place at the meeting of the ruling parliamentary group in Islamabad yesterday evening.

Khan Says 'Right Direction' Followed

BK1912095391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has described the performance of the present government as encouraging, noting that despite certain problems a right direction has been set, right step taken, and overall situation is moving toward improvement. In his annual address to the joint session of Parliament in Islamabad today, he counseled an end to confrontation and prejudices in politics, and maturity in our approach so as to divert our collective energies to the task of nation building according to constitutional and democratic norms. The president said the nation deserves to see a positive spectacle of progress and development and the government has formally resolved to give it what it deserves. It expects everyone to cooperate in this gigantic mission, putting national interest above their own.

Taking stock of the government's performance during its one year's existence, the president noted that constitutional institutions were functioning, tension between the center and provinces had ended, some old issues had been successfully resolved, and policies adopted which would hopefully yield far-reaching results. He said the nation has begun its march with renewed confidence on the road to economic progress. He termed as unprecedented the volume of legislation disposed of by the two houses of Parliament by adopting 24 bills out of 57 presented before them.

On foreign affairs, the president said the government is trying to promote friendly relations with all countries but shall neither compromise on national honor or security under any circumstances, nor shall it let them be jeopardized for the sake of improved relations, no matter how beneficial these relations apparently look for the time being.

'Thousands' Clash Outside Parliament

BK1912095891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0948 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 19 (AFP)—Weeks of political tension erupted into clashes outside Parliament here Thursday as opposition leader Benazir Bhutto and her followers staged a walk-out during a speech by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Thousands of the ousted premier's supporters clashed with security forces in combat gear, who charged the crowd repeatedly with bamboo canes and tear gas.

Several dozen people were injured in the confrontation, which lasted 45 minutes, witnesses said. A local hospital said it admitted more than 20 injured.

Violence erupted after Bhutto and members of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) walked out of Parliament when Ishaq Khan, whom Bhutto accused of imposing a

"reign of terror" in Pakistan, was giving an annual address to the upper and lower houses.

The PPP delegates interrupted the speech for 35 minutes by striking their desks and accusing him of "fascism." When National Assembly President Gohar Ayub Khan denied their request for speaking time, they walked out.

Khan dissolved Bhutto's 20-month government on August 6, 1990.

The political climate has been tense since Farhana Veena Hayat, a personal friend of Bhutto and the daughter of a retired politician, was sexually assaulted by unknown men November 27 in Karachi.

On Wednesday, Bhutto accused the president's son-in-law, Irfanullah Marwat, of instigating the alleged assault.

Marwat, an advisor on home affairs to the Sindh provincial chief minister, has described the charge as baseless.

Speaking to journalists in Parliament during the clash, Bhutto accused the president of serving his own interests rather than those of the country.

She said he alone was responsible for current unrest in Pakistan, which she linked to her dismissal and ensuing political and judicial repression.

Khan sacked Bhutto for alleged mismanagement and abuse of power.

She denounced subsequent general elections in October 1990, which saw her party routed, as fraudulent and rigged.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0923 GMT on 19 December carries a similar item which quotes Bhutto as saying: "'The president does not represent the unity of the country ... he has imposed a reign of terror,' she told reporters after she staged a walk out from Parliament. 'He is responsible for the illegal dismissal of my government ... the president is directly ruling Sindh through his son-in-law.'"]

Government Welcomes Afghan Arms Cutoff

BK1812163891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 18 (AFP)—Pakistan welcomes the impending cutoff of arms to the warring Afghan sides by Moscow and Washington, but has not made a decision to follow suit, a foreign office spokesman said Wednesday.

Under an accord signed September 13, the Soviet Union and the U.S. have agreed to stop delivering arms to the Kabul government and Afghan mujahedin respectively from January.

Answering questions about this agreement, the spokesman told a press briefing that Islamabad welcomed the U.S.-Soviet decision for it would give an impetus to the search for a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Asked if Pakistan would follow suit, the spokesman said he was not aware of any such decision "at the moment."

But at some stage Pakistan could move in that direction in consultation with other parties, he added, apparently referring to Iran and Saudi Arabia, who together with Pakistan back the mujahedin.

He rejected the possibility of the withdrawal of weapons systems from Afghan soil being discussed during the visit of Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy who is due to arrive in Pakistan Thursday.

"Pakistan cannot discuss implementation of an agreement signed by two sovereign governments," he said, adding "we are not a party to that agreement."

The spokesman said there were no reasons for believing Moscow was not abiding by the commitment it gave to the mujahedin last month that it would slow its supply of arms and combat fuel to Kabul.

The pledge was part of a joint statement issued in Moscow after talks held by a mujahedin team led by Burhanuddin Rabbani with Russian and Soviet officials.

The mujahedin, who are believed to be holding between 30 and 50 Soviet prisoners of war, promised in the statement to make efforts to release a first batch before January.

The Pakistan Government has been encouraging the release of POWs, the spokesman said, adding, "I can assure you that these efforts will continue."

Asked about the implications for Pakistan-Russian relations and for Rutskoy if he were to go back empty-handed on the prisoner release issue, the spokesman said "we fully understand the compulsions and factors surrounding the visit and the position he (Rutskoy) is in."

Pakistan Government wanted to make Rutskoy's visit "useful and successful," the spokesman said.

Some mujahedin leaders, including Rabbani, are in favour of releasing several POWs as a goodwill gesture at the end of Rutskoy's three-day visit.

Accords Signed With Central Asian Republics

BK1812161291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Pakistan has signed memoranda of understanding with several Central Asian Republics on the basic principles for cooperation in various sectors. This was stated

by Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, minister of state for economic affairs, on his return to Islamabad today after his three-week visit to Central Asia and Russia.

He said in addition to these documents, the traders accompanying his delegation have signed agreements with their counterparts in these republics for promoting private sector trade. This visit yielded considerable progress in Pakistan's relations with all these republics and the Russian Federation.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that the Central Asian Republics have supported the UN resolutions on Kashmir, Pakistan's stand on the nuclear issue, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's proposals for establishing a nuclear-free zone in South Asia.

Spokesman Previews Sharif Visit to Colombo

BK1812162691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif is leaving Islamabad for Colombo on 20 December where he will lead the Pakistani delegation at the sixth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, which starts in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo on 21 December. During his stay in Colombo, the prime minister will have meetings with other heads of state and government, including Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Briefing newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon, a Foreign Office spokesman said that there is no fixed agenda for the meeting between the two prime ministers and that each side will be free to discuss any issue.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that it has always been Pakistan's desire to establish good-neighborly and tension-free relations with India and that it will continue efforts to achieve this objective. Pakistan understands that it is necessary to settle the Kashmir and other issues in order to establish tension-free relations between Pakistan and India. The spokesman reiterated that Pakistan is in no way interfering in India's internal affairs.

After attending the inaugural ceremony of the South Asian games in Colombo on 22 December, the prime minister will proceed to Singapore on a two-day visit. He will meet Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and former Premier Lee Kuan Yew and exchange views on bilateral, regional, and international issues. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will apprise his Singaporean counterpart of the major steps and economic reforms undertaken by his government to accelerate economic development and for privatization and lifting controls over the economy.